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James I, 1566-1625.
Original letters relating to
the ecclesiastical affairs



RELATING TO THE

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS OF SCOTLAND,

CHIEFLY WRITTEN BY, OR ADDRESSED TO

AFTER HIS ACCESSION TO THE ENGLISH THRONE.

VOL. I.—M. DC. III.—M. DC. XIV.



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TO
THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS
OF
THESE VOLUMES,
CONTAINING
ORIGINAL LETTERS RELATING TO THE
ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS OF SCOTLAND,
FROM 1603 TO 1625,
ARE DEDICATED AND PRESENTED
BY THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT

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PREFACE.

IN 1698 there was printed at Edinburgh a small tract, entitled, “A Catalogue of curious Manuscripts, &c., Collected by Sir James Balfour of Kinaird, Knight-Baronet, and Lyon King at Arms, kept in his famous Study of Denmilne: and now exposed to Sale.” These Manuscripts were purchased in one lot, by the Faculty of Advocates; and, as to actual importance, they still form no inconsiderable part of the entire collection of Manuscripts in the Advocates Library. Not the least interesting portion of the Balfour Manuscripts consists of about twenty volumes in parchment covers, containing a series of Original Letters on State Affairs in England and Scotland, during the reigns of Elizabeth and James, and the early part of the reign of Charles the First. Of these Letters a few were printed by Lord Hailes, in his Memorials of the Reigns of James and Charles; and more recently they furnished the materials for two valuable contributions to the Abbotsford Club, under the following titles:—“The Melros Papers: State Papers and Miscellaneous Correspondence of Thomas, Earl of Melros:” in two volumes, printed at Edinburgh, 1837, at the expense of the Right Hon. John Hope, Lord Justice-Clerk: and “Letters and State Papers during the Reign of King James the Sixth; chiefly from the Manuscript Collections of Sir James Balfour of Denmyln:” printed at Edinburgh, 1838, at the expense of Adam Anderson, Esq., Dean of

the Faculty of Advocates. Both these works were edited by James Maidment, Esq., Advocate.¹

In the same Collection there are three separate volumes, consisting of such Letters as Sir James Balfour had arranged as a distinct series, relating to "The Affairs of the Church of Scotland, from the year 1610 to the year 1625." Of these Letters, a partial selection was prepared some years ago, for the purpose of being printed for the Abbotsford Club, uniformly with the two works just mentioned; but the plan was frustrated,—perhaps fortunately, as it has led to the present publication, which includes not only all the Letters contained in these three volumes, but nearly an equal number of others collected from the Public Records, or such repositories as were accessible to the Editor. But in this task he has experienced the serious disadvantage, in common even with other persons on the spot who may have liberal access to the originals, that there should be no detailed Catalogue of the extensive Collection of Manuscripts in the Advocates Library;² and no Inventory or descriptive Calendar of the several Records preserved in the General Register House. Under some proper regulations, these Records are now accessible for literary purposes, and the Editor has freely availed himself of such a privilege; but the uncertainty in regard to the nature of the various Records or of the original documents there deposited, will appear from the Appendix consisting of Additional Letters, with the existence of which he only became aware when this work had nearly been brought to a close.

The present series of Letters embraces a period sufficiently distinct in

¹ To Mr Maidment we are also indebted for the publication of other documents from the same repository, in his "Analecta Scotica," Edinburgh, 1834-1837, 2 vols. 8vo. In the Preface to a little volume (of which only a few copies were printed for sale), entitled, "Ancient Heraldic and Antiquarian Tracts, by Sir James Balfour of Dumylnie and Kinnaird," Edinburgh, 1837, 12mo, he has given a detailed account of the purchase of Balfour's Manuscripts by the Faculty of Advocates, in 1698.

² It cannot be otherwise than matter of regret, as well as astonishment, that, after the lapse of a century and a half, a collection of such interesting and valuable Manuscripts should still remain without a proper Catalogue.

the History of the Church of Scotland, extending from the accession of King James the Sixth to the Throne of England in March 1603, to his death in March 1625. Most of the Letters are now printed for the first time, either from the autographs, or from authentic copies in the Registers of the Privy Council of Scotland.¹ Without entering upon any detailed history of the period, some notices of the previous state of the Church may serve to illustrate the subsequent policy adopted and pursued by that Monarch in changing the Presbyterian to a Pre-latic form of Church Government.

Amidst the various changes produced by the Reformation, while every thing in the form of idolatrous worship was abolished, the several Churches and Parochial divisions were preserved or retained, so far as was practicable. The difficulty of finding within a limited period a sufficient number of qualified persons to supply these several parishes, could not speedily be overcome. Ministers were appointed for the chief towns, and Readers or Exhorters were employed in the less populous places. As the Readers were not permitted to exercise the higher functions of the ministry, the expedient was adopted of dividing the country into twelve districts, to be visited by a Superintendent, who should dispense the sacraments, inspect the different churches, and assist in supplying the vacant charges in their respective districts. To insure the more vigilant performance of such duties, they were not allowed to remain in one place beyond a limited period. Even for the twelve divisions, not more than five Superintendents were ever appointed; but similar powers were afterwards conferred on certain Ministers, who were named Commissioners of particular localities, without being released from the charge of their own parish. It has been asserted that, by this appointment of Superintendents, the Episcopal forms were virtually recognized by the

¹ In printing these Letters, the punctuation has been corrected; nor was it thought necessary to retain either the contractions, or the obsolete form of *z* to express the letter *y*, used by some of the writers.

Church. This assertion, though somewhat plausible, is far from being correct: this expedient was obviously of a temporary nature; and the burden imposed upon the Superintendents was so onerous that one and all of them requested the Assembly to accept their resignations. The Superintendents and Commissioners may have received a larger stipend than the ordinary Ministers, yet this was no adequate compensation for their greater labours, or the expenses incurred in the course of their journeys from one parish to another.

If the scheme proposed in the First Book of Discipline, and submitted to Parliament in August 1560, had been sanctioned by the Legislature, there can be no doubt that, while the clergy would have been provided with the means of subsistence, schools and colleges would have been placed on a surer foundation, and the wants of the poor and indigent would have been supplied. But while the Popish Prelates were allowed to retain two-thirds of their revenues, the Reformed Ministers and Readers for several years continued their labours under peculiar hardships and privations. The plan was at length devised and carried into effect, by the Regent Murray, in December 1567, of appropriating the entire thirds of all benefices to be paid to the Ministers, “ ay and quhill the Kirk cum to the full possessioun of their propir patrimonie, quhilk is the Teindis.” In this Act it is recited, that “ the Ministeris
 “ hes bene lang defraudit of their stipendis, swa that thay ar becum in
 “ greit povertie and necessitie: And notwithstanding hes continewit in
 “ thair vocatioun without payment of thair stipendis be ane greit space,
 “ quhairthrow thay ar, and salbe constranit to leif thair vocatioun,
 “ without reueid be provydit.”¹ The sums that were thus assigned were not considerable; but the Collectors of the Thirds, in their Books of Assiguation, furnish us with accurate lists of the several parishes, the names of the incumbents, and their stipends. The earliest of these Books is entitled “ The Registre of Ministers, and thair Stipendis, sen

¹ Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, vol. iii. p. 24.

the yeir of God 1567."¹ Including the Ministers who were appointed till 1571, the actual number was only 257, for 1080 churches, assisted by 151 Exhorters and 455 Readers : this was exclusive of Argyle and the Isles, of which no rentals were furnished.² As instances of the spiritual destitution of that time, it may be stated, that in the 54 parishes of Stratherne (or Perthshire) there were only 12 Ministers and 39 Readers ; and in the three fertile districts of Ayrshire, Cunningham, Kyle, and Carrick, there were 47 parish churches, supplied by 11 Ministers, 15 Exhorters, and 23 Readers.

The same Parliament which adopted this Scheme of provision, ratified the Doctrines of the Presbyterian Church, as exhibited in the Confession of Faith ; and by a virtual acknowledgment of its Government, the stated meetings of the General Assembly, which always consisting of Lay Members, as well as Ministers, and exercising a paramount jurisdiction, thus assumed a distinctive character : and the General Assembly still continues to be, as it were, a Representative National Assembly, in regard to Ecclesiastical Affairs.³

The death of the Regent Murray was an event most unfavourable to the Church and the peace of the country. As Knox's endeavours had not proved successful in prevailing upon the Government to dissolve the Prelacies, and appropriate their revenues to the common funds of the Church, it is easy to discover the motives which led to the Acts of the Convention at Leith, 16th January 1571-2. Hitherto, as already mentioned, the Popish Prelates had been allowed to retain a large share of the temporalities of their several benefices ; and as the Nobles could

¹ This Register of Ministers, from 1567 to 1571, is an interesting document, and was presented as a contribution to the Maitland Club, by the late Mr Alexander Macdonald (with a Preliminary Notice by Thomas Thomson, Esq.) Edinb. 1830, 4to.

² See the introductory notice to the extracts from the Book of the Assignment of Stipends, for the year 1574, contained in the Miscellany of the Wodrow Society, p. 319. Edinb. 1844, 8vo.

³ Observations on Church and State, suggested by the Duke of Argyll's Essay on the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland, p. 15. Edinb. 1848, 8vo.

not personally assume the ecclesiastical office, they adopted the expedient of appointing titular Bishops, for the purpose of securing the revenues for their own use; and persons were found who were willing to assume the dignity, and receive only a share of the fruits of the benefice, assigning, in the form of leases and pensions, the remaining portions to particular individuals, while many of the Nobility obtained for themselves special grants of other church-lands and tithes. It was therefore concluded, that no change should be made in regard to the former Sees and Dioceses; and a Dean and Chapter of learned Ministers were annexed to every Cathedral Church. The several Articles, Forms of Letters, and Oaths, agreed upon for admission of persons to benefices and spiritual offices,¹ were approved by the Lord Regent, in the King's name, on the 1st of February 1571-2. Instead, however, of waiting for vacancies occasioned by death, in January of the following year it was enacted that all Ecclesiastical dignitaries, and other persons holding benefices, who failed within a prescribed time to subscribe the Articles of Religion contained in the Acts of Parliament, and to take an Oath acknowledging of his Highness and his authority, in presence of the Archbishop, Bishop, Superintendent, or Commissioner of the Diocese or Province, where they held their Ecclesiastical livings, should thereby incur the sentence of forfeiture, and such livings remain at the King's disposal.

John Carswell, Superintendent of Argyle and the Isles, had accepted the office of Bishop of the Isles in March 1566,² and one or more intermediate appointments may have been made. For the two Metropolitan Sees of St Andrews and Glasgow, and for the Bishoprick of Dunkeld,

¹ These Forms, &c. are preserved in Calderwood's History, vol. iii. pp. 170-194, and in the Booke of the Universal Kirk, vol. i. pp. 205-237.

² In the Miscellany of the Wodrow Society, vol. i. p. 281, are some notices of Carswell, who, in July 1569, was rebuked by the General Assembly for accepting the office of a Bishop without their permission. He died before September 1572, when John Campbell, Prior of Ardehatten, became his successor.

John Douglas, Rector of the University of St Andrews, John Porterfield, Minister of Kilmarnock, in Dumbartonshire, and James Paton, Minister of Muckhart, were nominated. As the former Canons required the presence of three Bishops to perform the act of Consecration; to supply their place, letters of commission were issued on the 8th of September 1571, for examining and admitting them to their respective benefices. Of these commissions, that for admitting Porterfield to the See of Glasgow may be subjoined, from "The Register of Benefices deposited during the Government of the Earl of Mar, Regent."

COMMISSIO. GLASGOW. JO. PORTARFEILD.

CURE SOUERANE LORD, with auise of his richt traist Cousing Johnne Erle of Mar, Lord Erskin, Regent to his Hienes his realme and lieges: Considering how necessair it is, baith for the advancement of the Religioun and Kirk of God as for the commoun weill of the Realme, that personis prouidit to Bishopriks, be ressou thay ar to haue the charge and oversicht of the inferiour Ministeris, be of honest conuersatioun, sound doctrine, and sufficient habilitie and qualificatioun thairfoir; To the effect that in default of dew examinatioun, na avowit inynie to the trewth of God, nor ignorantis, be sufferit to enioy the patrimony of the Kirk: Thairfoir ordanis ane Commission to be maid, vnder the testimoniale of the Great Seill, in dew forme, Gevand, grantand, and committand full power, speciall command, expres bidding, and charge, to Maister Johnne Wynrhame, Superintendent of Fiff; Maister Johnne Spottiswood, Superintendent of Lowthene; Maister Andro Hay, Commissioner of Levinax, etc.; Maister Johnne Row, Minister of Sanct Johnnstoun; Johnne [Andro] Lord Veliltrie; and Thomas Kennedy of Bargany, or any thrie of thame coniuinctlie, to try and examinat the conuersatioun, doctrine, and qualificatioun of the maist reuerend father in God Johnne Archiebischop of Glasgow, laitlie nominat and prouidit to the said Archiebischoprik; And according as thay sall find his honest conuersatioun, confession of religion, and qualificatioun for his said cure and charge, to gif him testimoniale thairvpon; or vtherwise finding his inhabilitie and insufficiency thairfoir, to notefie the same to our Souerane Lord, and his said Regent, that farther order may be takin toward the said Archiebischoprik, for the commoditie of the Kirk and Commoun weill, as apertenis; and generalie, &c. ferme and stable, &c.: And that the said letter be extendit in the best forme, with all clauses needfull. Subscriuit be the said Lord Regent, at Striueling, the aucht day of September, the yeir of God ¹⁵⁷¹ m^o lxxj yeris.

The Commission for St Andrews bears the same date, and is in precisely similar terms; the same persons, or any three of them conjointly,

being authorised "to try and examinat the said Mr John Douglas, laitie nominat and providit to the said Archbishoprik." In that of Dunkeld, the benefice being declared to be vacant, by forfeiture of Robert Crichton, was conferred on Paton, "gevand to him the place, vote, and preheminance of Bishop in all tyme coming." There is no evidence to show that any of these individuals underwent trial for admission, in consequence of these warrants; but, in virtue of their office, Douglas and Porterfield sat in the Parliament at Stirling, and subscribed the "Admonitioun to the withhalderis of Edinburgh,"¹ on the 7th of September 1571; and *Johannes Archiepiscopus Glasguensis* consents to the alienation of the manse of the rectory of Glasgow, by the Rector, Mr Archibald Douglas, to Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill, and Janet Ker, his spouse, on the 20th of October 1571.

After the Articles agreed upon by the Convocation at Leith had been ratified, new letters were issued to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Kirks of St Andrews, on the 28th January, of Glasgow, on the 8th, and of Dunkeld, on the 16th February 1571-2, authorizing them to proceed to elect a Bishop for each of these Sees, without any reference to the previous nominations of Douglas, Porterfield, and Paton. Accordingly, Douglas's election was confirmed on the 9th of February, and on the following day his inauguration took place, the ceremony being conducted by John Wynram, Superintendent of Fife, assisted by Robert Bishop of Caithness, John Spottiswood, Superintendent of Lothian, and Mr David Lyndsay, Minister of Leith, "who laid their hands on him, and embraced him, in signe of admission to the Archbishoprick." That same day, we are told, John Knox preached, in the presence of the Regent Earl of Morton; but he not only refused to take any part in the inauguration of the said Bishop; "yea, in open audience of many then present, denounced *anathema* to the giver, *anathema* to the receiver."²

¹ Acts of the Parliament of Scotland, vol. iii. p. 70.

² Calderwood's History, vol. ii. p. 206.

On the 20th of July 1572, a letter confirming Paton's election was issued, containing a command "to the Archbishop of St Andrews, and to the Superintendents of Fyfe, Lothian, and Angus, to consecrate the said Mr James Pawtoun." In the preceding month of January, the temporalities of the See had been granted to Archibald Earl of Argyle: on the 27th of April 1573, the temporalities were restored to "Mr James Paton, now electit, admittit, and confirmit Bishop of Dunkeld."

In regard to Porterfield, it may be inferred that his election was not confirmed; and that, either in consequence of this, or of his subsequent resignation or deprivation,¹ at the command of the General Assembly, like one of his titular successors, Robert Montgomery, he resumed his duties as a parish Minister.² His promotion as titular Archbishop of Glasgow is explained by his connection with Alexander Earl of Glencairne, who had previously obtained yearly grants of the revenues of the Archbishopric.³

¹ Privy Council Register, vol. xl., no. 68, referred to by Chalmers (Caledonia, vol. iii. p. 624), February 1571-2; but this letter or warrant makes no mention of Porterfield's resignation, to preclude his re-election.

² In the Register of 1567-71, John Porterfield, Minister of Kilmaronock, is mentioned as having then been promoted to the Vicarage of Ardrossan. In April 1568 John Porterfield had obtained the Vicarage of Ardrossan, and in June 1569 a similar grant of the Vicarage of Stewarton was made in his favour; but the General Assembly would not consent to this plurality, and the latter Vicarage was bestowed on Mr Archibald Crawford. In 1574 the parishes of Inchekealzeoch, Drymmen, Balfroun, and Killerne, were conjoined to Kilmaronock, and Porterfield appears to have resigned his Vicarage of Ardrossan in favour of George Boyd, Reader at that Kirk. When Porterfield was translated as Minister of Ayr, in 1580, he was also appointed Commissioner for the districts of Kyle, Carrick, and Cunningham. He was alive in 1601, and was succeeded in the following year by John Welsh.

³ The Earl of Glencairne, in a letter 25th of December 1568, requested that some steps might be taken by the General Assembly for placing John Porterfield, now banished from Dumbarton. On the 13th of October 1570, the "Erle of Glencarne wald not assist to this Parliament, bot depairtit of Edinburgh, *because my Lord Regent wald nocht give to him the Archbishoprik of Glasgow.*" (Diurnal of Occurrents, p. 191.) The Earl of Glencairne died in 1574: and in his Testament, dated at his "place of Kilmaronock," 9th of April 1574, we find one of three witnesses, who are styled "Servitours to the said nobill and potent Lord," was "John Porterfield, Minister of Kilmaronock."

To supply this vacancy, another license to the Dean and Chapter of Glasgow to choose an Archbishop and Pastor to their Metropolitan Kirk, was issued on the 30th of September 1573, in which no mention is made of Porterfield, the seat being described as vacant, through the forfeiture and barratry of James (Beaton), last Archbishop thereof. The dignity was conferred on James Boyd of Trochrig, through the influence of Robert Lord Boyd; and on the 3d November 1573 a letter was directed to James Bishop of Dunkeld, Adam Bishop of Orkney, John Bishop of the Isles, and Mr John Spottiswood, Superintendent of Lothian, for his consecration. This was followed by another letter in the usual form, for his obtaining a right to the temporalities of the Archbishopric.

The See of St Andrews became vacant "by the natural death of unquhile Mr Johne Douglas, last Archbishop thair of, of gude memorie." He died in the year 1574.¹ From the delay that occurred in appointing his successor, some difficulty seems to have been experienced in filling the office. The letter granting a license to the Dean and Chapter to proceed to an election is dated 10th of March 1574-5. No election taking place, another letter, in similar terms, was issued on the 14th of September 1576; when Patrick Adamson, formerly Minister of Paisley, and at this time "Minister of Goddis word in my Lord Regentis house," was elected; and on the 21st December 1576, a letter under the Great Seal was directed "to Robert Bishop of Caithnes, Adam Bishop of Orkney, or to whatsomever Bishops or Superintendents, whom in this part it appertenis," intimating the Royal assent to this election, and commanding the saids Reverend Fathers to consecrate the said Mr Patrick. Nine separate grants of pensions out of the fruits of this Benefice, by Patrick Archbishop of St Andrews, in the month of January, and other two in February, 1576-7, are recorded as confirmed, to as many dependents or servitors "to the Regentis

¹ His Testament is dated at St Andrews, 8th of June 1574.

Grace,"¹ and afford a sufficient indication of the Earl of Morton's motives for sanctioning the appointment of titular Bishops. About the same time, three separate grants of the yearly pension of £500 each out of other Sees, were confirmed in favour of James, George, and Archibald Douglas, who are described as "sons naturall to the Regent."

The See of Aberdeen became vacant in 1577, by the death of William Gordon, and the ordinary letters were issued with the license to the Dean and Chapter to elect a successor. Mr David Cunningham, Minister of Cadder, being chosen, a Commission under the Great Seal was directed to Patrick Archbishop of St Andrews, Mr George Hay, Commissioner over the Kirks in the Diocese of Aberdeen, and Mr John Craig, Minister of Aberdeen, commanding them to consecrate the said Mr David; it is dated 5th of October 1577.

The vacancies in other Sees, by death, resignation, or deprivation, were either in like manner supplied, or the temporalities granted to laymen, until such places should be suitably provided. The "consecration," or "inauguration," mentioned, was the same form as had been used at the admission of a Superintendent, and much the same as still continues to be observed at the ordination to the pastoral office, by the imposition of hands.² In some cases individuals were appointed who seem to have had no right to exercise any ministerial functions. But the Church of Scotland, in its General Assemblies, whilst it accorded to such persons their territorial titles, never elected one of the said Bishops as Moderator, to preside in their meetings, and resolutely continued not only to refuse the recognition of their having any ecclesiastical supremacy, but passed various Acts for the purpose of limiting their power, and rendering them "subject to the discipline of the General Assembly, as members thereof." The King himself, after he had assumed the

¹ Register of Presentations to Benefices.

² "The Forme and Ordour of the Electioun of the Superintendents," &c., in March 1560-1, is contained in Knox's History, vol. ii. p. 143-150. Edinb. 1848, 8vo.

government, in 1579, was on the whole favourably inclined to Presbytery, if we may judge from his recorded expressions; and, in 1580, the platform of Church government was placed on a firmer basis, by the adoption of the Second Book of Discipline. It was not however for several years, and only after long and zealous contendings in their ordinary meetings of Presbyteries, Synods, and Assemblies, that this form was ratified in Parliament, by passing an Act for "abolishing the Acts contrary to the true Religion," 5th June 1592; and having thus obtained a legal sanction, it seemed destined to secure the permanent continuance of Presbytery in Scotland. This and the other Acts passed in 1592, embodying the system of the Presbyterian Church, as laid down in the Second Book of Discipline, it has been justly and eloquently remarked, "have survived the revolutions, and counter-revolutions, which were still to follow in the distracted history of the Scottish Church, only from that one great cause to which all human institutions must ever owe any strength or permanency they may attain, from their coincidence with the principles which had been impressed upon the mind of the people, for whose governance they were framed."¹

The Church at this time had attained a high degree of purity and efficiency; and the zeal of her Ministers had nearly rooted out the remaining seeds of Popery. In one Assembly, James himself declared "the Kirk of Scotland to be the sincerest Kirk in the world." The free and uncompromising manner in which the Clergy at times felt themselves called upon to remonstrate, and even to administer public rebukes to the King, was not calculated to gratify a Monarch who was already aspiring after absolute supremacy both in Church and State. It cannot indeed be denied, that Discipline was enforced with great rigour; that the solemn act of Excommunication pronounced against obstinate Papists and other offenders was followed by severe

¹ Essay, Critical and Historical, on the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland, by the Duke of Argyll, p. 83, 2d edit. 1849, 12mo.

penalties and civil disqualifications; and that the Ministers, by an assumption like that of the Romish priesthood, were inclined to exercise an uncontrolled authority in whatever they themselves chose to consider as spiritual matters. But such assumption and intolerance seem to be inherent qualities in all ecclesiastical denominations, Presbyterian as well as Popish, in modern as well as in early times.

King James's policy in such matters may be best illustrated by the intelligence communicated by the Resident Ambassador to Sir Robert Cecil, in a letter dated at Edinburgh, 19th of October 1600. After referring to the removal of Robert Bruce and the other Edinburgh Ministers who had been prohibited from preaching on account of their refusal to express a belief in the alleged conspiracy of the Earl of Gowrie, in the preceding month of August, the writer, George Nicolson, says:—

“ Further, the King and Convention aforesaide haue agreed to haue
 “ Bisshopps, and for the beginning haue ordeyned Mr Davyd Lyndsey
 “ Bisshop of Rosse, Mr Robert Pont Bisshop of Orkney, Mr George
 “ Gledstanes Bisshop of Cathnes, Mr Peter Blackburne Bisshop of
 “ Aberdene the old Bisshop being deade; and as soone as the King can
 “ reduce the rest of the Bisshoprickes, to haue them also furnisshed with
 “ Bisshopps, and for this purpose the King and said Convention haue
 “ resolved that the Act of Annexation, the erection of Spirituall Landes
 “ into Temporall Lordships; and the annexation and disposition of
 “ Patronages to gentlemen and others, shall all be annulled and revoked,
 “ as well to increase the Kingis lyvinge by the Abbasies, Pories, &c.,
 “ as to establish the Bisshopps with the lyvings, and the Ministers with
 “ the tenthes and livings belonging to the severall Churches. All which
 “ for them selues they haue agreed on, and to attempt at this Parlia-
 “ ment, if the tyme shall serue, els no. Allwaies these new chosen Bis-
 “ shopps are to haue vote in this Parliament, and it can not be denyed;
 “ yet for the rest I see no appearance of it, nather the tyme fit, nor the

“ King fully resolved to attempt them at this tyme, for they will get
 “ great opposition, and that by the greatest, and great numbers whenso-
 “ ever they shalbe labored for.”¹

Of the persons thus named, Robert Pont, as on a former occasion, refused to accept the office, without permission of the General Assembly; but Lyndsay, Gladstones, and Blackburn, being duly admitted, appeared and voted at the ensuing Parliament, although, like their titular brethren, Alexander Campbell, Bishop of Brechin, and Peter Rollock, Bishop of Dunkeld, they had not received either Episcopal consecration or jurisdiction.

Such was the actual state of the Church in March 1603, when James succeeded to the Throne of England. The Presbyterian forms of Church government, worship, and discipline were established, and had taken a permanent hold on the affections of the people. The privileges of the Church remained in force; and while the titles and offices of Prelacy were retained, with a right to sit and vote in Parliament nominally as Commissioners for the Kirk, they were bound by the injunctions of the Assembly to assume no superiority over their brethren. Notwithstanding the King's professions at his departure for England, that no change either in Church or State would be made, his attention was only withdrawn for a time from the affairs of the Church of his native country. His ultimate design soon became apparent.

In the well-known Conference at Hampton Court, in January 1603-4, between the English Prelates and some learned Puritans, which the King said, he had called “ according to the example of all Christian
 “ Princes, who, in the commencement of their reigne, usually take the
 “ first course for the establishing of the Church, both for doctrine
 “ and policie,” it pleased his Majesty “ both to enter into a gratu-

¹ Original in Her Majesty's State Paper Office.

“lation to Almighty God (at which wordes he put off his hat) for bringing him into the promised land, where Religion was purely professed; where he sate among grave, learned, and reverend men; not, as before, elsewhere, a King without state, without honour, without order; where beardless boys would brave him to his face; and to assure us, that he called not this Assemblie for any Innovation, acknowledging the Government Ecclesiasticall, as now it is, to have bene approved by manifolde blessings from God himselfe, both for the encrease of the Gospell, and with a most happie and glorious peace.” The mode in which the King continued to speak and direct matters during this three days Conference was such, that we are informed “all the Lords and the rest of the present Auditors stode amazed at it: the Archbishop of Canterbury (Whitgift) said, that undoubtedly his Majesty spake by the speciall assistance of God’s spirite. The Bishop of London (Bancroft) upon his knee protested, that his heart melted within him (and so he doubted not, did the heartes of the whole company) with joy, and made haste to acknowledge unto Almighty God, the singular mercy wee have received at his handes, in giving us such a King, as since Christ his time, the like, he thought, hath not been: Whereunto the Lords, with one voice, did yield a verie affectionate acclamation.”¹

His Majesty most undoubtedly had not been accustomed to hear such abject language addressed to him by his Presbyterian subjects in Scotland. Thus, at the meeting of the General Assembly held in the Chapel Royal of Holyrood, on the 10th of May 1586, the King assigned as one of the reasons for giving his assent to calling this Assembly, that they might “resolve among themselves of a forme of Discipline and Church Government most agreeable to the Word of God, *which he*

¹ “The Summe and Substance of the Conference, which, it pleased his Excellent Maiestie to haue with the Lords, Bishops, and others of his Clergie, &c. Contracted by William Barlow, Doctor of Divinity, and Deane of Chester,” pp. 4, 93. Lond. 1604, 4to.

purposed to establish throughout the realme." Robert Pont, Minister of St Cuthberts, who then filled the Moderator's chair, replied, "Sir, We praise God that your Majestic, being a Christian Prince, has decored our Assemblée with your own presence: *we trust your Majestic speaketh without hypocrisie.*"¹ It need excite no wonder, therefore, that the King's intentions should be strengthened on finding his title as Supreme Head of the Church so readily acknowledged in his new dominions.

The important design of effecting a Union of the two Kingdoms, as well as of the Crowns, and the negotiations conducted by the Commissioners for this end, withdrew the King's attention from the design to assimilate the Church of Scotland with that of England. This Treaty of Union being frustrated, his favourite scheme was resumed, and prosecuted with a singular degree of pertinacity. To give a history of this period in regard to the affairs of the Church would be unnecessary. The statements of Calderwood, Row, Scott of Couper, and other early Presbyterian writers, may be chargeable with strong party feelings. Spottiswood, on the other hand, assumes a more subdued tone, and is most conveniently brief in his account of later events. His History, like Calderwood's, terminates with the death of James, and can lay no claim to the minute accuracy of the Presbyterian historian. For illustrating the history of that period, and tracing the successive steps for carrying his Majesty's intentions into effect, it is obvious that there can be no more certain source, or one less liable to suspicion, than his own Correspondence with the individuals chiefly concerned in the administration of public affairs.

Calderwood, who had obtained access to many original documents when engaged in writing his History,² introduces the "Memorials to be

¹ Calderwood's History, vol. iv. p. 548.

² His larger History was completed in 1627, and afterwards rewritten and condensed: See the notices of the several Manuscripts of the work in vol. viii. of the Wodrow Society edition. Edinb. 1842-9, 8 vols. 8vo.

proponed to his most Excellent Majestic" in February 1609, which were written by Archbishop Spottiswood, (and are inserted in the present collection, at page 187;) and he says, "By these Memorialls and directionns may be perceaved the treacherie of the aspyring Prelates. If anie man had asked at them then, or will yitt aske, Wherefore they sent up hard Informations to the King, prejudiciall ather to their Brethren of the Ministerie, or other subjects, high or low? they would haue deepeilie protested, and protested diverse tynes, that they wer innocent; and yitt, &c. . . . And whereas they have made, and make the world beleave, that they are innocent of the directionns that come from Court, and serve for the weale of thair Estate, the reader may heere perceive, that howbeit the King was als earnestlie sett to sett them up in their full Estate, which they denied they were seeking as they would wishe; yitt do they direct the King, and lay down overtures and meanes which may be steadable to that end.
If we had all the Memorialls and Directionns which they have sent up to Court from tyme to tyme, we might have greater falshood and knaverie discovered nor is lyke to come to our knowledge, or likelie to be found in men of anie calling whatsoever."

Without drawing such an uncharitable inference, we may consider the following letters as affording conclusive evidence that such informations were actually transmitted by some of the Prelates to the King, and not unfrequently to promote their own selfish projects. The removal of David Lindesay from St Andrews, in 1606,¹ and of John Murray from Leith, in 1608,² may be quoted as illustrations³ But, on various occa-

¹ Translated in 1606 to Forgandenny, and in 1609 to Leith. The sentiments expressed by Gladstones, in Nos. XXV. and LXXX., were afterwards modified, No. CLVII.: and "this fool," as he calls Lindesay, in place of being the "vainest and unrulyest man in Scotland," proved a quiet, serious, and pains-taking Minister. He is to be distinguished from one of the sons of his colleague, the Bishop of Ross, of the same name, who held some preferment in the English Church.

² See notes to pages 124 and 189.

³ Another instance that may be adduced, is the accusation sent to the King respecting

sions, the King himself alludes to his receiving such communications; and he shows his natural disposition by sending directions from Court about obscure individuals, or matters of very small importance.¹ The very servile terms in which James is addressed alike by the nobility and the dignified clergy cannot escape observation. The loss of a volume of the Privy Council Register, containing Royal Letters, between March 1612 and September 1623, is much to be regretted. Another series of letters, which would necessarily have been of very great importance, the correspondence of Archbishop Spottiswood, is not known to exist.² But that many other letters of the period are still preserved in private repositories cannot be doubted;³ yet the following series is much more extensive and complete than could well have been expected.

For the purpose of raising the character of those Ministers on whom the dignity of Prelates had been conferred, an Act was passed by the Parliament held at Edinburgh on the 11th of July 1606, "anent the

the Lord Balfour of Burley, at the Parliament in 1612. In a Petition to the King, he requests that his accuser, Archbishop Spottiswood, may set down under his hand the particulars alleged; and after that he had cleared himself of such unjust imputations, he "entreats permission to lay before your Majesty, and the world, the particular misdemeanours of the Bishop of Glasgow, which being truly known to your Majesty, I think, you shall find him not worthy that trust he has of your Majesty, and most unfitting for the place and dignity he hath in your state." (Lord Hailes's Memorials, p. 44.)

¹ See Calderwood's remarks, (History, vol. vii., p. 94.)

² The Archbishop, in his Last Will and Testament, made at Newcastle, 14th of January 1639, appoints John Maxwell, Bishop of Ross, Executor, "commending to his "fidelitie the edition of my Historie, if the same be not done by my self;" and in a separate clause is added,—"To my said brother, the Bishop of Rosse, I ordain the Manuscripts that I left at Roslin and Edinburgh, to be delivered, containing *the Letters of his Majesty's Father, and other Memorials*, together with the letters sent by his Majesty "that now is, by the Archbis-hop of Canterbury and himself, to me, at divers times, "which may serve him for some good use."—Inquiries respecting these Papers have been made in various quarters, but without success.

³ The additional Letters in the Appendix were printed before the Editor happened to see a volume entitled "Descriptive Index of the Contents of five Manuscript Volumes illustrative of the History of Great Britain, in the Library of Dawson Turner, Esq.," Great Yarmouth. 1843, 8vo. Connected with the present series, it contains a few letters, which are specified at the end of the present volume (page 458*).

Restitution of the Estate of Bishops,"—"restoring to the said Estate their ancient and accustomed honours, dignities, prerogatives, and privileges." Nominations to all the vacant Sees had previously been made; and compensations granted to some of the titular Prelates, that persons actually serving in the Ministry might be preferred.

The following letter, nominating Spottiswood to the See of Glasgow, upon the death of Archbishop Beaton, may be quoted, in order to illustrate the form of presentation to Bishoprics at this time; but some delay in his admission must have taken place, as another letter of presentation in his favour is dated "at Our Palice of Westminster, 2d November 1604:"—

OURE Souerane Lord, with ayse and consent of his Hienes trustie and familiar Counsellour, Mr John Prestoune of Fentounbarnis, his Hienes Collectour Generall, Ordanis ane letter to be maid under his Hienes Great Seall, in dew forme makand mention, Forsamekle as his Hienes wnderstanding the Archibishoprik and Benefice of Glasgw to be destitute of ane Archibishope, and to vaik in his Hienes handis, and at his gift and dispositioun, be deceis of wmqubile James Betone, lait lauchfull Archibishop thairof; And calling to mynd the lait Act of Parliament maid be the Thrie Estaitis of the Realme of Scotland, be the quhilk it was statute and ordanit that his Majestie sould give and dispone all Bischopriks and utheris Prelaccis then vacand, or quhilkis thairefter sould happin to vaik, wanting Bischopis and Pastouris, to any persone or persons quhome his Hienes pleisit to chuse and elect maist able and qualifeit for the samin, and to provyde thame lawfullie thairto: And now, efter lang experience, and many documentis sufficientlie hard and provit be his Majestie, of the literature, eruditioun, honest and laudable bypast lyfe of his louit MR JOHN SPOTTISWODE, Minister at the Kirk of Calder, and of his willing mynd and intentioun to continew in the office and funetion of ane Minister in the Kirk of God; Quha lykwayis hes gevin oft experience of his singular mynd and earnest studie towardis his Majestie in dyvers effairis committit to his credite, and if the grit panes and trawell takin be him in establisching of the Discipline within the Kirk of God, and propagatioun of Chrystis Evangell within the same, quhairin with ardent zeale, great affectionn, panes and travell, he hes commendable dischargit his dewtie as becumis ane faythfull Pastor and loyall Subject, quhairof it becumis his Hienes of his princelie dewtie not to be unmyndfull, bot to requyte the samin, quhairthrow he may have the gritter occasioun daylie mair and mair to continew and perseveir thairin: Thairfoir, and for dyvers and sindrie utheris ressonabill causses, occasiounis, and guid consideratiounis moveing his Hienes, his Majestie, with advise and consent of his said Collectour Generall, and Thesaurer of his New Augmentatiounis, hes maid, constitute, and ordanit, lykeas be the tennour of the said letter his Hienes makis, constitutis,

and ordanis the said MR JOHN SPOTTISWODE Bischope of the said Archbischoplik and benefice of Glasgw, and hes gevin, grantit, and disponit, &c. *Promitten*, &c. With command, in the said letter, to the Lordis of his Hienes Counsell and Sessioun to direct letters, &c.; And ordanis the said letter to pass immediatlie heiron, vnder his Majesties said Grit Seall, &c. At Hampton Court, the twentie day of Julij, the yeir of God 1^m xj^e and thrie yeiris. (*Sic subscriptur.*)

JAMES R.

JO. PRESTOUN.

It is worthy of remark, that after the Reformation there prevailed a friendly feeling or recognition between the Sister Churches of England and Scotland, and the Reformed Churches abroad. At a later period, immediately after the accession of James, in 1603, in the "Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical, agreed upon in the Province of Canterbury, with the King's Majesty's Licence," in the 55th Article, containing a Form of Prayer to be used by all Preachers before their Sermons, are these words:—

"Ye shall pray for Christ's holy Catholic Church, that is, for the whole Congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the whole world, *and especially for the Churches of England, SCOTLAND, and Ireland.*" There can be no doubt that the Church of Scotland at this time was in every respect Presbyterian.

The prosecution, banishment, or imprisonment of Forbes, Welsh, and other Ministers, who maintained the lawfulness of the Aberdeen Assembly in 1605,¹ and of those who were summoned to the Conference at Hampton Court in September 1606, having removed most of "the turbulent and unquiet spirits," the next step was the appointment of Constant Moderators to the several Presbyteries.² This measure was

¹ A detailed narrative by John Forbes, Minister of Alford, who acted as Moderator of the Assembly at Aberdeen, was published by the Wodrow Society, under the title of "Certain Records touching the Estate of the Church of Scotland." Edinburgh, 1846, 8vo. Among other documents relating to the proceedings at the Assembly, and the trial of Forbes and other Ministers who attended and maintained its legality, it contains the letter from the Privy Council, dissuading the Brethren from holding the Assembly, dated 20th June, and the Reply, dated on the 2d July 1605.

² The names of the Ministers who were nominated by the King as Constant Moderators, with the letter enjoining Presbyteries to receive them, dated 6th of January 1607, are contained in the Booke of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii. pp. 1035-40.

resisted with greater firmness than was anticipated, and was carried chiefly by the threats of imprisonment, or by silencing the most resolute opposers.

The following extracts from the Treasurer's Accounts are worthy of notice, as serving to illustrate some particulars connected with the affairs of the Church at this time¹:—

1606, April. Item, to ane boy passand of Edinburgh to the Commoun Clerkis of the Burghis of Cowper in Fyff, Perth, Dundie, Forfar, Aberdeen, Bant, Elgin, Forres, Narne, and Innernes; and delyvering to ilk ane of thame ane prentit Proclamatioun to be intimat to the Counsall of thair Burghis seuerallie, quhairby the Magistrattis thairof might be the better informit how to obey his Maiesties will and directioun set furth in the said Proclamatioun, Incais ony sklanderous speitches wer utterit publiclie or privatlie aganis the proceedingis of the Counsall and Justices in trying of the Ministeris that war committit to warde. vij li.

Item, to ane boy passand of Edinburgh with the lyk prentit Proclamatiounis, to be delyuerit to the Commoun Clerkis of the Burghis of Linythgow, Striuling, Glasgow, Dunbartane, Renfrew, Irwing, and Lanerk. vj li.

Item, to ane uther boy passand of Edinburgh with the samen prentit Proclamatiounis, to be deliuerit to the Commoun Clerkis of the Burghis of Haddington, Dunse, Jedburgh, Selkirk, Peibles, and Drumfreis. v li.

1606, Maij. Item, be his Maiesties speciall command, to the Bishop of Glasgow, (£2400.) ij^m iij^s li.

— Julij. Item, to the Bishop of Glasgow, to be his charges to London in his Maiesties service, (£1200.) I^m ij^s li.

Item, be commandment of the Lordis of Counsall, to Mr James Balfoure, Mr Robert Wallace, Mr Adame Colt, Mr Andro Meluill, Mr James Meluill, Mr William Watsons, Mr William Scot, and Mr John Carnichell, Ministeris, for thair charges and expenses in thair journey toward his Majestie, (£2666, 13s. 4d.) Ij^m vj^s lxxvj li, xij s. iij d.

Item, be his Maiesties speciall command, to the Bishop of St Androis, for payment and satisfioun to Sir Andro Meluill and Mr George Young of thair pensionis quhillk thai had furth of the said Bishoprik, (£2000.) ij^m li.

1610, May. Item, to Johne Archebischop of Glasgow, for his pensioun at this terme, (£1000.) I^m li.

— Junij. Item, be his Maiesties directioun and warrand to Johne Archebischop of Glasgow, as his discharge and acquittance thairof productit upoun compt beiris, (£5046, 13s. 4d.) V^m xlvi li, xij s. iij d.

¹ The Treasurer's Accounts from 1606 to 1610 are not preserved.

- 1610, Junij. Item, to Mr Robert Charteris, for prenting of the Proclamatioun maid inhibiting all his Majesties leiges to speik ony thing aganis the proceeding of the Assembly at Glasgow, v li.
- Item, to Archibald Bald, Messenger, passand with letters to the Mercat Croce of Edinburgh, and a Trumpetour with him, discharging all Ministeris, Reidaris, or uther personis quhatsumevir, to impugne or querrell the Actis maid at the lait Generall Assemblie at Glasgow. And charging thairwith all Magistrattis to sease on the personis contraveneris, xx s.
- October. Item, be his Maiesties warrand, to James Bischope of Orkney, Moderatour of the Generall Assemblie at Linlythgow, in the moneth of (blank) 1608, To be distributit be the said Reuerend father to certane Constant Moderatouris of Presbytereis, and utheris Ministeris, according to his Maiesteis directioun gevin thairaunt, as the samyn warrand producit beiris. (£3010.) iij^m x li.
- 1611, Apryle. Item, be his Maiesties precept to James Bischope of Orkney, for his expensis and charges in repairing to Court, and in visitatioun of sundrie pairtis of his Diocie, as the said precept, with his acquittance producit vpon compt beiris, (£1200.) I^m ij^s li.
- 1615, Februar. Item, to Andro Hay, in name of the richt reuerend Father in God Johnne Archbishops of Glasgow, the half of the somme of ane thousand nyne hundreth fyftie thrie pundis sex schillingis aucht pennies, as the compositiones of certane remissiones grantit to sum inhabitantis in Glasgow for heiring of Mess, and resetting and intertancing of umquhile Johne Ogilbie, Jesuit, sayer and celebrator of the same; as the warrand with his acquittance producit heirupone beiris, extending to the somme of (£976, 13s. 4d.) ix^s lxxvj li, xiijs. iiij d.

A General Assembly was at length held at Glasgow, in June 1610, when Archbishop Spottiswood assumed the Moderator's chair, and several Acts concerning "the Discipline of the Kirk in all time coming" were carried, with scarcely any opposition. These Acts, with certain explanations and changes not sanctioned by the Church, being ratified by Parliament in October 1612, Episcopacy was thus established, and his Majesty had the satisfaction of seeing the Church of Scotland brought to some degree of conformity with that of England. It was however thought that the Scottish Prelates were still deficient of the true Episcopal character; and three of their number, Spottiswood, Hamilton, and Lamb, were summoned to Court, for Consecration. The ceremony was duly performed, excepting that the necessity of re-ordination as Presbyters, although urged, was

not held to be absolutely essential; and on their return to Scotland, they proceeded to invest their brethren with the same orders, or inherent powers which they themselves were supposed to have received. How deficient this ceremony was, according to the sentiments now entertained, need scarcely be mentioned, as their own consecration, being destitute of the fundamental principle involved in the Apostolical succession, their subsequent act could not convey to others what they themselves did not possess.¹

It is indeed very evident that Episcopacy, in its true and essential features, although at times nominally professed, and legally established, first in 1612, and again in 1662, never existed in this country; and the views of some recent writers, as if the Bishops in Scotland formed consecutive links in the due order of Apostolical succession, are at best a mere delusion.

The proceedings at the Perth Assembly in August 1618, and other events connected with the affairs of the Church, are, more or less, clearly to be traced in the following Correspondence, and need not be recapitulated. But it may be observed, that the establishment of two Courts of High Commission in February 1610, to be presided over by the Archbishop in his own province, under the pretence of preventing the Council from exercising jurisdiction in Spiritual matters, seems to have originated in the evident reluctance on the part of the Lord Chancellor, and the Lords of Privy Council, to enforce the very harsh orders which were frequently sent from Court by the King, at the instigation of his Spiritual counsellors and informers, against the Ministers and such as opposed the scheme of constant Moderators, and other innovations. In these Courts, which afterwards were united,² the Arch-

¹ This subject has been ably treated in Letter xvi. of a work, entitled "The Exclusive Claims of Puseyite Episcopalians to the Christian Ministry Indefensible; with an Inquiry into the Divine Right of Episcopacy and the Apostolic Succession," by the Rev. Dr Brown of Langton. Edinb. 1842, 12mo.

² On the 21st of December 1615 (Calderwood's History, vol. vii., p. 204-10.)

bishop, and any four of those who were named in the Commission, had the power of fining, imprisoning, or excommunicating any person they judged to be scandalous in life, or erroneous in doctrine and religion; and any Minister who refused to comply with the mandate of the Commissioners was liable to the severest penalties.¹ But while so many of the most faithful and zealous Ministers were silenced, and like Robert Bruce, not permitted "to preach the Gospel" beyond the bounds to which they were rigidly confined, his Majesty and the Bishops themselves found employment in endeavouring, but not very effectually, to check the rapid growth of Popery.

And what, it may be asked, was the result of so many years negotiations, harsh proceedings, and pecuniary sacrifices, on the part of the King? The Presbyterian form of Church government was abolished, with a formal recognition of Diocesan Episcopacy; but it was Episcopacy of a most anomalous kind, carrying a mere semblance of Prelatic government: Bishops who enjoyed their dignities for many years without consecration, and were never canonically consecrated; the observance of certain holidays, enjoined under severe penalties, was very generally neglected: ceremonies enjoined which the people almost universally refused to practise; there was no Liturgy or fixed forms of prayer prescribed, and no alteration made in the common forms of Presbyterian worship; the Bishops were restored to their old privileges in Parliament, as the Spiritual Estate, and they presided at Synodal Assemblies; but they were contemned, and their Diocesan control only partially acknowledged by their Presbyters. On the other hand, his Majesty's Royal Prerogatives and Supremacy were asserted, the ambition of some aspiring and worldly-minded individuals gratified, and the Scottish Church brought to something approaching in an outward conformity to that of England. It would have been fortunate for James, "as Nurse-Father" to the Church, had he pur-

¹ See Dr Cook's remarks in his History of the Church of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 224-5.

sued a different policy, for promoting its peace and the welfare of his subjects. At his death "he left in legacy to his Son," as an old writer remarks, "a discontented People; an unnecessary expensive War; an encumbered Revenue, and an exhausted Treasury; together with the charge of his grandchildren by the Queen of Bohemia, that were now divested of a large patrimony, derived to them by a long series of illustrious ancestors. In fine, he entailed upon his Son all the miseries that befell him; and left in the minds of his subjects those sparks of discontent that broke out some years after into a flame of Civil War, which ended in the ruin of King Charles, and of the Monarchy with him."¹

It is this circumstance which may be considered as rendering the following Series of Letters of peculiar importance, as clearly testifying that Charles only adopted the same policy which James had pursued with such intense pertinacity, in regard to Ecclesiastical Affairs. Some years later, indeed, at the instigation of Archbishop Laud, in order to enforce a stricter conformity, a Book of Canons, and the Book of Common Prayer, were prepared and commanded to be observed. These might at the time have been introduced without much opposition, but the discontent which had been smouldering so long from the effects of unwise and oppressive measures, then burst forth, and produced all those disastrous consequences that so speedily followed.

But leaving these matters to the Historian, it may be useful, before concluding this Preface, to present some brief notices of the chief Officers of State; and, as the collection likewise contains so many letters of the Scottish Prelates during the same period, to subjoin from the Register of Presentations to Benefices, an accurate list of the succession of Bishops, in the different Sees, from 1603 to 1625.

¹ Dr Wellwood's Memoirs, p. 20. Lond. 1700, 8vo.

LORD CHANCELLOR OF SCOTLAND.

JOHN GRAHAM, EARL OF MONTROSE, was appointed Lord Chancellor in January 1598. He was in some measure superseded, upon being nominated Lord High Commissioner to the Parliament which met at Edinburgh in April 1604. He died in November 1608.¹

ALEXANDER SETOEX, LORD FYVIE, created Earl of Dunfermline, was educated at Rome for the Church, and took Holy Orders abroad, and became Prior of Pluscardine. On his return to Scotland he pursued his legal studies, passed Advocate, and was successively promoted to the bench, as one of the Lords of Session, in 1586, as President of the Court in 1593, and as Lord Chancellor in 1604. He held the latter high office till his death in 1622.²

SIR GEORGE HAY of Kinfauns, Clerk-Register, succeeded the Earl of Dunfermline as Lord Chancellor in July 1622; and was created Earl of Kinnoull in May 1633. He died in December 1634.

LORD HIGH TREASURER.

SIR GEORGE HUME of Greenlaw was made Treasurer, Comptroller, and Collector, in 1601. He was created Earl of Dunbar, and a Knight of the Garter, in the year 1609; and died suddenly on the 30th of January 1611.

SIR ROBERT KER of Carr, like his predecessor, was one of the King's favourites, and was raised to the Peerage as Lord Rochester in 1611, and was created Earl of Somerset in 1613. He was Treasurer from 1612 to 1616; but the chief duties of the office devolved on his kinsman, Sir Gideon Murray, Treasurer-Depute.

JOHN ERSKINE, EARL OF MAR, succeeded as Treasurer in 1616, and died in 1634.

¹ Brunton's *Senators of the College of Justice*, p. 191.

² *Ib.* pp. 198-202.

TREASURER-DEPUTE.

SIR JOHN ARNOT of Birswick, Provost of Edinburgh for several years in succession, was appointed Treasurer-Depute under the Earl of Dunbar in 1604, and held the office till 1611. According to Scotstarvet, Arnot acquired considerable property, which his family retained for no lengthened period. But he appears to have been involved in debt at the time of his decease, in January 1616.

SIR GIDEON MURRAY of Elibank, the second son of Andrew Murray of Blackbarony, became Treasurer-Depute under the Earl of Somerset. He was educated for the Church, and took his Masters' degree at Glasgow, in 1581. In 1585 the name of Mr Gideon Murray, Chantor of Aberdeen, occurs as Minister of Auchterless in Banffshire; thus confirming Calderwood's remark, in noticing his death, 28th of June 1621. "This man put his hand to the pleughe of the ministrie, but returned back his hand." He was knighted in 1605, made a Lord of Session in 1613, and as Treasurer-Depute he had nearly the whole direction of the public revenue of Scotland. His son Patrick was raised to the Peerage as Lord Elibank in 1643.

SIR ARCHIBALD NAPIER of Merchiston, one of the Gentlemen of his Majesty's Privy Chamber, was appointed Deputy Treasurer by the Earl of Mar, and he continued till 1630. He was created Lord Napier in May 1627, and died in 1645.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

SIR JAMES ELPHINSTONE, appointed Secretary in 1598, was created a Peer in 1604, under the title of Lord Balmerinoch, and also became President of the Court of Session in March 1605. His trial for having added the words, "Sanctitatis v. obsequentissimus Filius," above the King's signature, in a letter addressed by James to Pope Clement VIII.,

some years previously, is well known; and for this he narrowly escaped being beheaded as a traitor in 1609.¹ He died in June 1612.

SIR ALEXANDER HAY of Newton was Secretary from 1608 till 1612, when he exchanged the office for that of Clerk-Register.

SIR THOMAS HAMILTON, who received his legal education in France, passed Advocate in 1587, and held various official appointments. In 1592 he was appointed a Lord of Session; in 1596, King's Advocate; in 1612, Clerk-Register, which office he soon after exchanged for the Secretaryship with Sir Alexander Hay; in 1616 he was President of the Court of Session. In 1613 he was created Lord Binning, in 1619 Earl of Melros, and in 1627 he relinquished the title for that of Earl of Haddington. During the life of King James he still retained the place of Secretary; and in the reign of Charles he became Keeper of the Privy Seal. He died in May 1637.

CLERK-REGISTER.

SIR JOHN SKENE of Curriehill was Clerk-Register from 1594 till his retirement, in May 1612.

SIR THOMAS HAMILTON was appointed Clerk-Register in May, and Secretary in October, 1612.

SIR ALEXANDER HAY of Newton, as stated above, exchanged his office of Secretary with his predecessor. He died in February 1616.

SIR GEORGE HAY of Nether Lyf and Kinfanns studied abroad, and was made Commendator of the Priory of Charterhouse at Perth, in February 1599. He held the office of Clerk-Register from March 1616 till July 1622, when he was advanced to that of Lord Chancellor.

SIR JOHN HAMILTON of Magdalens, brother to the Earl of Haddington, was Clerk-Register from 1622 to 1632.

¹ The proceedings, and various papers illustrative of this process, are contained in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. ii., pp. 568-601.

KING'S ADVOCATE.

THOMAS HAMILTON of Priestfield, afterwards Lord Binning, and Earl of Melros, held the office from 1596 to 1612.

SIR WILLIAM OLIPHANT of Newton, from 1612 to 1626.

LORD PRIVY SEAL.

SIR RICHARD COCKBURN of Clerkington, from 1595 to 1626.

GENTLEMAN OF THE PRIVY CHAMBER.

JOHN MURRAY, son of Charles Murray of Cockpool, "his Hienes lovit servitor," in February 1600 obtained a yearly pension of £420 out of the Abbaey of Dundrennan. Having accompanied his Majesty to England; this confidential servant continued to act as a kind of agent for the Bishops at the English Court. He seems to have retained a considerable influence over the King; and during the whole course of that reign, his interest was often solicited by persons of distinction. He cannot however be said to have neglected his own interest; for having acquired very extensive possessions in Annandale, he was raised to the Peerage, as Viscount of Annand, in 1622, and Earl of Annandale, in 1624, by Letters Patent, in which his long and faithful services are very amply acknowledged. His son, who succeeded in 1640, died without issue, when the title became extinct. The bulk of Sir James Balfour's collection of Letters and State Papers had probably been acquired from the representatives of the first Earl, who had retained in his own possession so large a number of official or private letters addressed to his Royal Master; and this, in fact, may have proved the means of preserving them. Singularly enough, while the following sheets were at press, in a mass of papers which the Editor purchased,

he recovered several stray letters, addressed to John Murray of Lochmaben, which had escaped the notice of Sir James Balfour two centuries ago. Such of these as related to Church affairs are introduced into this series;¹ many others, it is to be feared, were destroyed, or perished from damp in the place where they had been deposited.

ST ANDREWS.

GEORGE GLADSTONES or Gleadstones, a native of Dundee, studied at St Andrews. In October 1582 he was presented to the Vicarage of Monrois, in the Diocese of Brechin; and about the same time became Minister of Abirlot. In July 1597 he was translated to St Andrews, as parish Minister; and, in September 1598, he was appointed Chancellor of the University. In November 1600 he was nominated by the King to the See of Caithness, with a seat in Parliament, vacant by decease of Robert Earl of March, last Bishop thereof. On the 24th of November 1602, "Maister [George] Gledstones, Bishop of Caithnes, be his Maiesteis directioun and command being ressauid and admittit to be ane of his Maiesteis Preuey Counsall, the said Maister George being personalie present gaif his aith *in communi forma*."² As Gladstones still continued Minister of St Andrews, this circumstance may have led the King to advance him to the Primacy, 12th of October 1604. A pension of 300 merks was assigned to him, in lieu "of the Palice belangand to the said Archbischope as his proper maner place, callit the Castell of St Androis," and which he resigned "in the handis of owre maist gracious Souerane, to remain with his Hienes his maist noble progenie as ane

¹ A few other Ecclesiastical letters, which belonged to a late eminent Collector, have come into the Editor's possession while this sheet is at press. Only two were of sufficient importance to be added to this series.

² Registrum Secreti Concilii.

Palice belangand to the Crowne."¹ His death, on the 2d of May 1615, is specially mentioned in the following Letters, and by Calderwood.²

JOHN SPOTTISWOOD, eldest son of John Spottiswood, Superintendent of Lothian, and Minister of Calder, was born in 1565. He studied at Glasgow, where he took his Master's degree in 1581; and being licensed in 1586, he succeeded his father as Minister of Calder. In October 1589, he married Rachael, daughter of David Lindsay, Minister of Leith, and afterwards Bishop of Ross.³ In July 1603 he was nominated Archbishop of Glasgow, but was not admitted till the end of 1604. Amongst other grants which he received, for his services "in establishing the discipline of the Kirk," may be mentioned the Abbacy of Kilwinning, on the 9th of August 1614. He was translated to the See of St Andrews, on the 30th of May 1615. During the reign of James, he continued to take a leading part in all matters of importance; and having secured the favour of Charles, his ambition was at length gratified, in January 1635, when he was raised to the high dignity of Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Presbytery being restored by the General Assembly held at Glasgow in November 1638, Spottiswood was deprived of both offices, and formally deposed. He spent the remaining portion of his life in London, where he died on the 26th of November 1639.

ABERDEEN.

PETER BLACKBURN, a native of Glasgow, where he was educated, became one of the Regents in that University. In 1588 he was admitted Minister of St Nicholas's Church in New Aberdeen; and advanced to that See on the 2d of September 1600, on the death of

¹ Register of Presentations to Benefices, vol. iii.

² History, vol. vii., p. 197.

³ "1589, Sept. 6. The quhilk day, compeirit Maister Johnne Spottiswood and Rachiel Lyndsay, and gave up thair names to be proclaimed, and married within ane moneth; and in caice they be absent frome the eftir noon's sermone, sal pay xls. Thomas Lyndsay, cautioner. (In the margin.) Married 12 October 1589." (Kirk Session Book of South Leith.)

David Cunningham, Bishop of Aberdeen. On occasion of the Prelates joining in the Riding of the Parliament in July 1606, Blackburn considering it not becoming the simplicity of a Minister to ride with such pomp, went on foot to the Parliament House.' He died in June 1616.

ALEXANDER FORBES was translated to this See from Caithness, 21st of July 1616, but died in December in the following year.

PATRICK FORBES of Corse only entered into holy orders in 1612, in the 47th year of his age, when he became Minister of Keith in the Diocese of Murray. He was advanced to the See of Aberdeen in March 1618; and survived till March 1635.²

ARGYLE.

JOHN CAMPBELL succeeded his father, Neil Campbell, Minister of Kilmartin, as Bishop of Argyle, in June 1608. He died in 1612.

ANDREW BOYD, Parson of Eaglesham (1588), a natural son of Lord Boyd, was preferred to this See, 13th of March 1613. He died on the 22d of December 1636, aged 70.

BRECHIN.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL of Carco, titular Bishop of Brechin, resigned his office in April 1607, and died "at his place of Carco," in February 1608. He had obtained a grant of the Bishoprick in 1566, in his youth, through the influence of the Earl of Argyle.

ANDREW LAMB, a native of Leith, was successively Minister of Arbroath (1596), of Leith (1600), and of the Chapel Royal (1601.) In April 1607 he became Bishop of Brechin; and he was one of three

¹ Calderwood's History, vol. vi., p. 491.

² A volume of Orations and Poems, on occasion of the Bishop's Funerals, was printed at Aberdeen, 1635, 4to, and reprinted, with numerous and valuable biographical notices, by C. F. Shand, Esq., Advocate, for the Spottiswoode Society. Edinburgh, 1845. 8vo.

Bishops who received Episcopal consecration in England, in October 1610. In August 1619 he was translated to the See of Galloway.

DAVID LINDESAY, D.D., Minister of Guthrie (1599), and of Dundee (1603), became Lamb's successor as Bishop of Brechin, 2d of November 1619. When Edinburgh was erected into a See by Charles the First, in 1633, and the first Bishop, Dr William Forbes, having died within twelve months, Dr Lindesay was translated from Brechin. He was deposed in 1638, and died in England in December 1641.

CAITHNESS.

GEORGE GLADSTONES, Minister of St Andrews, was preferred to the See of Caithness, 5th of November 1600, on the death of Robert Earl of March, last Bishop thereof; and was translated to St Andrews in 1604.

ALEXANDER FORBES, Minister of Fettercairn (1593), in November 1604 was promoted to Caithness; and in 1616 was translated to Aberdeen.

JOHN ABERNETHY, D.D., Minister of Jedburgh (1593), was appointed Bishop, 7th of December 1616. He continued in this See till the change of affairs in 1638; when he abjured Episcopacy, and was allowed to retain his parochial charge at Jedburgh.

DUNBLANE.

ANDREW GRAHAME was elected Bishop in this See, in 1575, and resigned the said benefice and Bishoprick in February 1603.

GEORGE GRAHAME, a younger son of Grahame of Inchbrakie, in Perthshire, Minister of Cluny (1593), of Auchtergaven and Logybrude (1595), and of Scone (1601), was preferred to this See. He was translated to that of Orkney in 1615.

ADAM BELLENDEN, Minister of Falkirk (1593), became his successor in September 1615, as Bishop of Dunblane. He had a grant of the Priory of Monymusk, in February 1616. On the 16th of July 1621 the Deanery of the Chapel Royal, upon the resignation of Andrew

Bishop of Galloway, was granted to Adam Bishop of Dunblane, and his successors. In 1635 he was translated to Aberdeen, and died in England after his deprivation by the Glasgow Assembly.

DUNKELD.

PETER ROLLOCK of Piltoun was bred to the law, and was admitted an Advocate previous to the year 1575; and although not in orders, "a Bishop in respect of the benefice, but never a Minister,"¹ he was made titular Bishop of Dunkeld in 1585, and a Lord of Session in 1596. He was one of ten Prelates who attended at the riding of Parliament in July 1606. The anomaly of a layman sitting in Parliament, and voting among the Spiritual Lords, led to his resignation, receiving a compensation for the emoluments of the Bishopric, to make room for a person actually serving in the ministry.

JAMES NICOLSON, Minister of Meigle (1583), who presided at the General Assembly at Linlithgow,² in December 1606, and was regarded as an efficient coadjutor in promoting the establishment of Prelacy, was then promoted; but seems to have enjoyed no great satisfaction during the short period of his new career, not exceeding five or six months. Calderwood asserts, that "seeing his devices crossed, neither the King nor the Kirk contented, but his own estimationn greatlie impaired, and specially for depraving the Act of Linlithgow, ane heavie melancholie fell upon him, which did wring his life from him."³ He died on the 17th of August 1607.

¹ Calderwood's History, vol. vi., p. 493.

² It would seem that Nicolson had felt some reluctance in accepting this dignity. The Secretary, Lord Balacrinnoch, in a letter to the King, dated 21st January 1607, says:— "The Erl of Dunbar hes putt Maister James Nicolsoun and Maister Andro Lamb to ane poynt, so I hope your Maiestie salbe als welle pleased with those twa Bischopis as any of the rest, and that thair labouris in that work sall not be improffitabill." (Letters and State Papers, p. 99.)

³ Calderwood further states that Nicolson "would not sutler the name or style of a

ALEXANDER LINDESAY, Minister of St Madoes (1593), was promoted to the See of Dunkeld, in December 1607. In 1638 he was one of four Prelates who renounced their office, and abjured Episcopacy: submitting to his former Presbyterian party, he continued to officiate as Minister of St Madoes.

EDINBURGH.

This See was only erected by Charles the First, the 29th of September 1633.

GALLOWAY.

GAVIN HAMILTON, a son of Hamilton of Orbiston, second Minister of Hamilton (1590), and Minister of Bothwell (1595), was promoted to this See in February 1605. He was consecrated at London along with the Bishops of Glasgow and Brechin, 20th of October 1610. He died in July 1612.

WILLIAM COWPER, Minister of Bothkennar (1586–1593), and second Minister of Perth (1593–1615), was his successor. He was a voluminous author, his works combining great learning and piety, and he had long been opposed to all innovations in the Church. His nomination as Bishop of Galloway is dated in July 1612, but he seems to have delayed for some time accepting the office. As Bishop he also became Dean of the Chapel Royal of Stirling, and latterly resided in Edinburgh, where he died 15th of February 1619.

ANDREW LAMB, Minister in June 1605, was made Abbot and Com-mendator of the Abbey of Cowpar; and was translated from the See of Brechin to Galloway, 4th August 1619. He died in the year 1634.

Bishop to be putt in his latter will or testament, nor the rents thereof to come in reckon-ing among the goods and geare left to his wife and children." (Vol. vi., p. 672.) It is certain, that in his Confirmed Testament he simply styles himself Minister of Meikle.

GLASGOW.

JOHN SPOTTISWOOD, Minister of Calder, as already mentioned, was nominated to this See after the death of Archbishop Beaton, the Roman Catholic Prelate, who had resided at Paris for upwards of forty years, and enjoyed the temporalities of the See of Glasgow till his death in April 1603. In October 1610 Spottiswood, Hamilton, and Lamb, received Episcopal consecration according to the form of the Church of England. Upon the death of Gladstones he was translated to St Andrews, in May 1615.

JAMES LAW, Minister of Kirkliston (1588), and Bishop of Orkney (1605), became Spottiswood's successor at Glasgow, in July 1615. He died in November 1632.

MURRAY.

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS, Minister of Elgin (1588), was promoted to the See of Murray, in November 1602, after the death of George Douglas, last Bishop, "with all the duties, privileges, &c., according to the discipline of the Kirk." He died at Elgin in May 1623.

JOHN GUTHRIE, Minister of Abirlot (1607), of Perth (1617), and of Edinburgh (1621), was advanced to this See, 16th of August 1623. In November 1638 he was deposed, with the other Prelates, and excommunicated: after which he appears to have held no pastoral office till his death.

ORKNEY.

JAMES LAW, Minister of Kirkliston (1588), became Bishop of Orkney in March 1605, where he sat till his translation to Glasgow, in July 1615.

GEORGE GRAHAME, Minister of Scone, and Bishop of Dunblane, was in August 1615 translated to Orkney. In 1638 he renounced his Episcopal functions, and acknowledged publicly the unlawfulness of his

office. He then retired into private life; and by his submission he was exempted from the sentence of excommunication, and thereby retained his estate of Gorthy, and other possessions.

Ross.

DAVID LINDESAY. This venerable Minister, who survived all his brethren of the period of the Reformation, was in July 1560 nominated first Minister of Leith, and in this charge he continued for the long space of fifty-three years. He accompanied King James in his voyage to Norway, and performed the marriage ceremony with the Princess Anna of Denmark, in 1589-90. In June 1597 he obtained a grant of "all and sundry caynis and customes quhatsumever pertening to the Bishoprick of Ross," in consideration of "his great and profitable services, and the expenses, amounting to 2000 merkis, spent in his voyage to Denmark, at the time of the King's marriage." On the 5th of November 1600, he was appointed to the Bishoprick of Ross, then vacant by the decease of Alexander Hepburn, last Bishop thereof.

He died at Leith, 14th of August 1613. His son-in-law, the Archbishop of Glasgow, solicited the King, that David Lindesay, the second son of the late Bishop, should become his father's successor in that See,¹ but the application was unsuccessful.

PATRICK LINDESAY, Minister of St Vigean's (1593), was appointed Bishop of Ross, 23d October 1613.² In 1633 he was translated to Glasgow.

¹ To distinguish him from his namesake, who happened to be his father's colleague and successor, as Minister of Leith (see note to page xxi.), it may be noticed, that in one of the Kirk Session Books of South Leith, the witnesses to the baptism of Agnes, daughter of George Smailholm and Barbara Lyndsay, on the 30th August 1608, were "Mr David Lyndsay, Bishop of Ross, Mr David Lyndsay younger, his son, Persone of St Tullois in Southwark, in London, and Archibald Prymrois."

² David Lindsay, "second lawfull son to Patrik Bishop of Ross," obtained a presentation to the Monastery or Priory of St Bothans, in Berwickshire, 23d July 1617.

THE ISLES.

ANDREW KNOX, second son of Vchtred Knox of Ranfurly, in Renfrewshire, took his degree of Master of Arts in the University of Glasgow, in 1579, and was Minister of Lochwinnoch (1582), and of Paisley (1585.) Upon the death of John Campbell, he was appointed Bishop of the Isles, 12th February 1605, and Abbot of Icolmkill, in February 1606. He was promoted to the See of Raphoe, in Ireland, by patent dated 26th of June 1611;¹ and there is reason to believe that he actually contrived to retain both Sees for several years. He received letters of denization, 22d of September 1619, probably on occasion of his continued residence in Ireland; as his son,

THOMAS KNOX, Parson of Sorbie, who had been preferred to the Deanery of the Isles, 4th August 1618, became his father's successor as Bishop of the Isles, in February 1619. He died in 1628. His father, the Bishop of Raphoe, survived till 1632.

It only remains to add, that it did not seem to be very requisite to give a detailed reference to the Original Letters, as this would have inconveniently enlarged the Table of Contents. As already mentioned, a considerable portion of the Letters are contained in the three volumes of Sir James Balfour's collections on Church Affairs;² in addition to those which are interspersed in his volumes designated "State Business."³ Some others are added from the originals among Wodrow's Manuscripts in the Advocates Library;⁴ besides such as belong to the

¹ Archdeacon Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice*, vol. iii., p. 351.

² These volumes are marked 33 : 3 : 12, and 33 : 1 : 3, (the old marks, A. 2. 51, 52, 53.) The letters (excluding a few not belonging to the period embraced in this publication), contain, Vol. I., 97 letters; Vol. II., 107 letters; Vol. III., 80 letters.

³ The volumes on "State Business" are arranged chiefly according to the respective dates, and are bound in eleven volumes.

⁴ Folio MSS., Vol. xlii. (Calderswood's collections), Nos. 2, 18, 38, 76, 117, 121.

Editor of this Work.¹ With a few exceptions,² all the Royal Letters included in the Additional Letters, and the Acts of the Privy Council of Scotland, are given from the originals, or the official records in the General Register House.

In presenting these Volumes to THE MEMBERS OF THE BANNATYNE CLUB, I may express the hope that they will be esteemed a valuable contribution to the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland. It may be proper to take this opportunity of stating, that the publication was recommended to me by the SECRETARY OF THE CLUB, who kindly offered his services both in forming the collection, and in conducting it through the press. The selections referred to at page vii., consisting chiefly of the Letters of Gladstones, Spottiswood, and other Bishops, had been prepared some years before by his younger Brother,³ for the purpose of being printed as a contribution by a friend of his for the Abbotsford Club; but owing to the delicate state of his health, and his not having the convenience of free access to the originals, the project was long delayed, and was finally abandoned when the Abbotsford Club had discontinued all active operations.

The present Collection of Letters and State Papers has extended much beyond the limits originally proposed, and this extension has

137, 177, 181, 188, 211; Vol. I., Nos. 172, 173; Vol. lxvi., Nos. 39, 78, 85, 86, 100, 142, 145, 150. Quarto MSS., Vol. xx., Nos. 82, 331. The sources which furnished Nos. 1, 38, 202, 300, 305, 317, 356, 298†, and 298††, are specified in the foot-notes.

¹ These letters are printed in this series as Nos. 144, 240, 281, 282, 297, 304, 354, 358, 378, 399, 438.

² The Additional Letters, Nos. 193† and 197†, among the "Gray Letters," and No. 312†††, from the Balcarras Papers, vol. viii., in the Advocates Library; No. 206† in the Earl of Morton's collection; and Nos. 2†, 44†, 120†, 173†, 205†, belonging to the Editor.

³ Mr JAMES LAING, who, on account of his health having finally settled at Kandy in the Island of Ceylon, died there, in the prime of life, in September 1846.

unavoidably occasioned a much longer delay than was anticipated. I regret the delay, but the BASSATYNE CLUB at least will probably not consider this circumstance a disadvantage.

NORTON HALL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,

28th November 1851.

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ORIGINAL LETTERS

RELATING TO THE

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS
OF SCOTLAND.

ORIGINAL LETTERS

RELATING TO ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS

IN SCOTLAND.

I.—KING JAMES TO THE PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH.

[KING JAMES THE SIXTH succeeded to the throne of England, on the death of Queen Elizabeth, 23d of March 1603. He left Edinburgh on the 5th of April, to take possession of the Crown, and was accompanied with a numerous retinue, including Patrick Galloway, the Minister of his Household, his colleague Andrew Lamb, and David Lindsay, Minister of Leith, who was also titular Bishop of Ross. In his harangue in the High Church of Edinburgh, on Sunday the 3d of April, the King expressed his desire that “the Brethren should keep unity and peace,” and “thanked God, that he had settled both Kirk and Kingdom, and left them in that estate which he intended not to hurt or alter anie wise, his subjects living in peace.”—(Calderwood’s History, vol. vi., p. 222.)—The following Extracts are from the Records of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, which unfortunately are not preserved of a date subsequent to May 1603. The King’s Letter has been preserved in having been inserted at the end of the volume.

xxx° *Martij* 1603.

Mr David Lyndsay haifing declarit that he with Mr Andro Lamb wer commandit be his Majestie to repair with his Majestie to England, and thairfore craivit that the Presbytrie wald haif sum care for provisioun of Leyth ;—The Presbytrie thinkis meit the Congregatioun to be advysit with, and ather to giwe lyt [leit] to the Presbytrie, or to accept a lyt of the Presbytrie.

At Edinburgh, the 13 of April 1603.

The quhilk day compeirit some of the Sessioun of Leyth, schawing that thair Towne was left destitut of Pastouris, the one, to wit Mr Andro Lamb, being chosin be the

Generall Assemblie to be the Kingis Minister; the uther, Mr David Lyndisay, was accompanying the Kingis Majestie towardis London: Thairtoir they desirit that thair Towne might be providit. The Presbyterie considering thair suit, thoct it expedient, with thair awin advyse, that ane Visitation sould be to that effect, &c.

11 *Maij* 1603.

The Presbyterie of Hadingtoun having directit ane letter to this Presbyterie, requesting the samyn, be reason of many incidentis, to appoynt a day for the Synodall Assemblie;—The Presbyterie hes thoct guid, with the Moderator of the foirsaid Assemblie, to appoynt the last Tysday of *Maij* of this instant 1603 for the Synodall Assemblie to be haldin at Edinburgh, becaus the former Assemblie haldin at Hadingtoun the first Tysday of Aprill 1603 was continewit be reason of the Kingis Majesties present bygoing. At quhilk tyme, the Assemblie then mett, thoct it expedient onlie to propone sum Petitiounis to his Majestie, and to continew the Assemblie quhill the Moderator and Presbyterie of Edinburgh advertisit thame.]

James F.

Trufly and wellbelouittis, we greet you hertlie wele. We haue hard be letters from our Comfale, your willing tefificationis of your joy of our Coronatioun, and your glaidnes of the continewance of Godis mercye towardis ws in difcoverie of fiv vnnaturall practizes diuided against ws, ffor the quhilk We can not omit to gif you thankis. And that ye may be the bettir encouraged dalie to go forward in Godis work, quhair of We ar not vnnayndfull, howfoeur We be absent in perfoum, among our directionis fend to our Comfale thair We haue specialie commandit thame to hald hand to Godis glorie, and the obeydience of your Discipline. Thairfoir as ye haue occasionis, ye fall addres your feltl and your petitionis to thame, quha we hoip schall gif you good satisfiactioun. We haue fend lame all our particular Infructiounis, by fiv of your awne Brethren, quhilk we hoip schalbe schortlie imparted vnto you: And fo We bid you hertlie fairwele, from our honour of Hamptoun, this nynt day of Augusti 1603.

To our right trufly and wellbelouedes the Minif-
ters of the Pretbyterie of Edinbrough.

II.—MR PATRICK GALLOWAY TO THE PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH.

[The following letter relates to the Conference at Hampton Court, in January 1604, of which a separate account, as, “The Summe and Substance of the Conference,” was published by Dr William Barlow, London, 1605, 4to. The Puritans, it may be observed, complained of the unfairness of this report.]

BELOVED BRETHREN,

After my very hearty commendations, these presents are to flow you, that I received two of your letters; one directed to his Majestie, another to myself, for the using thereof. The same I read, closed, and three dayes before the Conference delivered it into his Majesties hands, and received it back again, after some short speeches had upon a word of your letter, “as the gross corruptions of this Church;” which then was expounded, and I assured, that all corruptions dissonant from the Word, or contrare thereto, should be amended. The 12 of Januar was the day of meeting; at what time the Bishops called upon be his Majestie, wer gravely desired to advise upon all the corruptions in this Church, in doctrine, ceremonies, discipline; and, as they would answer to God in conscience, and to his Majestie upon their obedience, that they should return the third day after, which was Saturday. They returned to his Majestie, and there apposed as of before, it was answered, all was well: And when his Majestie in great fervency brought instances to the contrare, they, upon their knees, with great earnestness craved that nothing should be altered, least the Papists Recufants, punished be penal statuts for their disobedience, and the Puritans punished by deprivation from calling and living, for nonconformity, should say, they had just cause to insult upon them, as men who had travelled to bind them to that which now, by their own mouths, was confessed to be erroneous. Always, after five hours disput had be his Majestie against them, and his Majesties resolution for reformation intimated to them, they were dismissed that day. Upon the 16 of Januar, being Munday, the Brethren were called to his Majestie, only five of them being present, and with them two Bishops, and six or eight Deans. Here his Majestie craved to know of

them, what they desired to be reformed. But it was very loufly answered, and coldly. This day ended after four dayes talking, and Wednesday the 18 of Januar appointed for the meeting of both parties; where, as of before, the parties called together, the heads were repeated, which his Majestie would have reformed at this time: and so the whole action ended. Sundrie as they favoured gave out coppies of things here concluded; where upon myself took occasion, as I was an ear and eye witness, to sett them down, and presented them to his Majestie, who, with his own hand mended some things: and eeked other things which I had omitted; which corrected coppie with his own hand I have, and off it I have sent you herein the just transumpt, word be word: and this is the whole. At my own returning, which God willing, shall be shortly, ye shall know more particularly the rest. So, till then taking my leave, I committ you to the protection of the Most High, and your labours to the powerfull blessing of Christ, the author thereof. From London, this 10th of Februar [1604].

Your Brother in the Lord
to his uttermost,

M. P. GALLOWAY.

The cause of my delay to write, was my awaiting on his Majesties leisure, to obtain that copy spoken of before, corrected as it is, that so I might write, as it is allowed to stand and be performed.

A NOTE OF SUCH THINGS AS SHALL BE REFORMED.

1. *Of Doctrine.*

1. That an uniform, short, and plain Catechism be made, to be used in all Churches, and Parishes of this Kingdom, and no other. There is already the Doctrine of the Sacraments added in most clear and plaine terms.

2. That a Translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all Churches in England in divine service.

3. That no Popish or traitorous Books be suffered to be brought in this Kingdom; and strict order to be taken, that if they come over, they be delivered nor sold to none, either in the Country or Universities, but such only as may make good use thereof, for the confutation of the Adversaries.

2. *Of the Service Book.*

1. That to the Absolution, shall be added the word of pronouncing the Remission of sins.

2. That to the Confirmation, shall be added the word of Catechising, or examination of the Children's faith.

3. That the privat Baptism be called the Baptism of the Ministers and Curats only; and all the questions that insinuat women or privat persons, to be altered accordingly.

4. That such Apocrypha as have any repugnance to Canonical Scripture shall be removed, and not read; and other places chosen for them, which may serve better either for explanation of Scripture, or instruction in good life and manners, and specially, the greatest part of such places as were given in writ.

5. That words of Marriage be made more clear.

The Cross in Baptism was never counted any part in Baptism, nor sign effective, but only significative.

3. *Of Discipline.*

1. That Bishops are admonished to judge no Ministers, without the advice of some of the gravest Deans, and Chaplans.

2. That none shall have power to Excommunicat but only the Bishops in their Diocies, in the presence of these foresaid, and only upon such weighty and grave causes to which they shall subscribe.

3. That Civill Excommunication now used is declared to be a mere civill cenfure; and therefore, the name of it is altered, and a writ out of the Chaucerie to punifh the contumacy fhall be framed.

4. That all Bifhops nominat to that effect, fhall fet down the matters and manner of proceeding to be followed hereafter in Ecclefiafticall Courts, and modifie their fees.

5. That the oath *ex officio* be rightly used, *id est*, only for great, and publick flanders.

6. That the Bifhops be carefull to caufe the Minifters note in every Parifh of their Diocefe, the names of all Recufants; alfo, the Names of fuch as come to Church, and hear preaching, but refufe to communicat every year once; and to prefent the fame to the Bifhop, the Bifhop to the Archbifhop, the Archbifhop to the King.

7. That the Sabbath be looked to, and kept better, through all Diocies.

8. That the High Commiffion be rightly used; the cafes to be handled, and the manner of proceeding therein to be declared; and that no perfon be nominated thereto, but fuch as are men of honour and good quality.

4. *Of the Miniftrie.*

1. That the Reading Minifters that are of age, and not feandalous, be provided for, and maintained, be the perfon preferred to preach in his room, according to the valour of the living; and that the unlearned, and feandalous be tryed, and removed from thefe places, and learned and qualified be placed for them.

2. That as many learned Minifters as may be had, with convenient maintenance for them, may be placed in fuch places where there is a want of preaching, with all hafte.

3. That learned and grave Minifters be transported where the Gofpel is planted, and fettled to fuch parts of the Kingdom, where the greateft ignorance is, and greateft number of Recufants are.

4. That Minifters, beneficed men, make refidence upon their benefices, and feed their flock with preaching every Sabbath day.

5. That Pluralifts, and fuch as prefently have double benefices, make

refidence upon one of them ; and that these their benefices be als near each other, as he may preach to the people of both their week about ; and where they are farther distant, that he maintain therein a qualified Preacher.

5. Of Schools.

1. That Schools in Cities, Towns, and Families, throughout all the Kingdom, be taught be none but such as shall be tryed and proved to be found and upright in Religion. And for that effect, that the Bishops in every one of their Diocies take order with them, displacing the corrupted, and plaing the honest and sufficient in their places.

2. That order be taken with Univerities, for trying of Matters and Fellows of Colledges ; and that none be suffered to have Cure in instructing of youth, but such as are approved for their foundness in Religion ; and such as are suspected, or known otherwise to be affected, to be removed.

3. That the Kingdom of Ireland, the Borders of England and Scotland, and all Wales, be planted with Schools and Preachers, as soon as may be.

The Ministers have this long tyme past, and shall be in all tyme coming, urged to subscribe nothing but the three Articles, which are both clear and reasonable.

ARTICLES WHEREUNTO ALL SUCH AS ARE ADMITTED TO PREACH, READ, CATECHIZE, MINISTER THE SACRAMENTS, OR TO EXECUTE ANY OTHER ECCLESIASTICALL FUNCTION, DOE AGREE AND CONSENT, AND TESTIFY THE SAME BY SUBSCRIPTION OF THEIR NAMES, ANNO 1583.

“ 1. That his Majestie under God hath, and ought to have, the Sovereantie over all manner of persons born within his Realmes, dominions, and countries, of what estate either Ecclesiasticall or Temporall soever they be ; and that none other Power, Prelat, State, or Potentat, hath, or ought to have any jurisdiction, power, superiority, preeminence, or

authority Ecclesiasticall or Spirituall within his Majesties said Realmes, Dominions, or Countries.

“ 2. That the Booke of Common Prayer, and of ordaining of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, containes in it nothing contrair to the Word of God; and that the same may be lawfully used; and that I my self who doe subscribe, will use the Forme of the said Booke prescribed in publick prayer, and administration of the Sacraments, and none other.

“ 3. That I allow the Booke of Articles of Religion agreed upon be the Archbishops and Bishops of both the Provinces, and the whole Clergie, in the Convocation holden at London, in the year of our Lord 1562, and set forth be authority; and doe believe all the Articles therein contained to be agreeable to the Word of God. In witness whereof I have subscribed my name.”¹

III.—MR JAMES DUNCANSON TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE your Majestie, grationlie to heare the complaint of the Children of your Hienes old and faithfull servant John Duncanson, who having served your Hienes from your Majesties infancie threttie and sex

¹ Calderwood, who inserts the preceding Letter and Articles, says, “ This copie corrected by the King is slender enough, yett different from the Narrative extant in print. Mr James Melvill was at the Presbyterie of Edinburgh the last of Februar, when this Letter with these Articles were presented and read. All others keeping silence, he craved two things: First, that they would, as Christian and brotherlie compassion craved, be grieved and touched with sorrow, with many godlie and learned Brethren in our neighbour countrie, who, having expected a Reformation, are disappointed and heavilie grieved; and if no other way could be found for helpe, that they would at the least helpe by their prayers to God, for their comfort and reliefe. Nixt, that seeing the Presbyterie of Edinburgh had ever bene as the Sion and watche-towre of our Kirk, and the Ministers thereof the cheefe watchemen, that they would watche and take heed that no perrell or contagion come for our neighbour Kirk; and give warning, in case there be occasion, to the Presbyteries throughout the countrie; and namelie, that they take heed at this Parliament, which is indicted by proclamation, and intended for Union of the two Realmes.”—(History of the Kirk, vol. vi., p. 246.)

yeares,¹ and died in your Majesties favour, hes notwithstanding left us his children in great penurie, partlie be reason that his stipend wes not payed to him many yeares before his death; which as yet, for want of moyan and favour in Seffion, we his Children can not obteyne; as also that the precepts which your Majestie, of your Hienes princelie liberalitie, directed in his favour hes not bene answered, as in speciall your Majestie gave him not long before his death a precept of two thousand fyve hundredth lib. Scottes, which here we have to shew, bot our Father not having reffaved it in his tyme, wes forced to leave it in legacie to his children, neither have we as yet obteyned it, whereby we are left in greater pouertie then the children of ony that served your Hienes, from your Majesties craddle, as our Father did. And therefore most humble prayes your Majestie to give commandement that the last precept gevin by your Majestie to our Father may be maid good to the vse of his children, without any long protract of tyme, together with ony further compassion it may please your Princelie liberalitie to bestow upon vs.

Your Hienes daylie Orator,

MR JAMES DUNCANSON.

¹ JOHN DUNCANSON was admitted Principal of St Leonard's College, St Andrews, in 1553. He resigned this office in 1566, after the birth of King James, having then been chosen Minister of Stirling and of the King's Household. John Duncanson continued to the close of his life to be styled Minister of the Chapell Royall, or the King's House. In May 1601, the King declared to the General Assembly "his intention and desyre to have a Minister for his Hienes' house, in respect of the deceise of Mr John Craig, and John Duncansone's old age." The latter, according to his Confirmed Testament, died on the 4th of October 1601.

Margaret Kenyow, his relict spouse, and the above Mr James Duncanson his son, were nominated conjunct executors. It appears, from the same authority, that his other "bairnes, unprovidet for," were William, Walter, and Marioun. The chief portion of "his geir" consisted of arrears of stipend. To this daughter Marioun he bequeathed "his hail buikis." "Mr Alexander Home, Minister at Logie, and Marioun Duncansone, dochter of John Duncansone Minister to the Kingis Majestie, his spouses," are named in a deed 30th May 1605.—(McCrie's Life of Melville, vol. ii., p. 504.) The above Supplication, which has no date, may be referred to the year 1604.

IV.—SIR ALEXANDER STRATOUN OF LAURESTOUN, HIS MAJESTEIS
COMMISSIONER, TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it pleis your most excellent Sacred Maieftie: I have bene earnest sinee my hancecoming to obtemper your Maiefties direc̄tions concredit vnto me. And the Commiffionaris of the Kirk being conuenit be me, for the maist part hes gewin thair concurrence in all thingis maist willinglie. The particularis I hawe writtin to my Lord Balmerinoch. And the berar, Mr James Law, can at large inform your Maieftie, a man quha wereis not with any trawell that may tend to your Maieftis service, as your Maieftie hes had a princelie consideratioun of him. Wiffing to your Maieftie a long, happie, and a prosperouſs regnne, humble takis my lewe. Edinburgh, the 19 of January, 1605.

Your Maieftis maist humble obedient
subject and seruitour,

A. STRATON¹ of Laurentowne.

To the Kingis most excellent
Sacred Maieftie.

V.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE KIRK TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

Pleis your Majestie, we hawe thocht it our dewtie in all humble fort to rander thankis to your Hienes alsweill for that generall care your Majestie hes had of your awin Kirk in thir North partis, as for that honorable remembrance it has pleist your Hienes to hawe particularly of ws, And seing we hawe na uther meanis, we promis on our partis all

¹ In the original the name appears as if written "J. Strato."

diligens and thankfull service to your Majestie in every thing that belangis our charge ; for we will prefer your Majesteis pleafour and comandement to all earthlie thingis. We ar farther to entreat your Majestie in a particular tuitelung the preferment of our brother Mr James Nicolfone, quhome your Majestie understandis to be a man sufficientlie qualescit for ony publict place in the Kirk, That seing the Bishoprik of Dunkell is posselt be ane¹ that hes na publict function in our Kirk, and that the rentes thairof will nocht presentlie excede the foun of four hundreth merkis Scottis, be reasone of dispositions made be the present Titular that can nocht be remedeit in his tyme, your Majestie will be pleasit out of that good affectione quhilk your Hienes beiris to the restoring of the Estate of our Kirk, to caus sum wyfe and discreit man deall with the posseltour of the said benefice for his dimission thairof in favouris of the said Mr James, and that he may have sum consideration thairfore of your Majestie, quhilk we ar assured fall advance the wark that is presentlie in hand, and give your Majestie greit contentment in the course of your publict affairis. This far we ar bald with your Majestie : And for the present we humblie tak our lewe, praying God for your Majesteis long lyf and prosperous regne.

Edinburgh, the 19 of Januarij
1605.

Your Majesteis humble obedient
subjectis and servitouris,

GLASGOW.

PATRIK SHARPE.

ANDRO KNOX.

ANDRO BOYD.

MR RICHARD THOMSONE, in name of the
rest of the Commiffioneris.

To his Majestie.

¹ Mr Peter Rollok, titular Bishop of Dunkeld, and one of the Extraordinary Lords of Session. See a subsequent letter on this subject addressed by him to King James.

VI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW¹ TO KING JAMES.

SIRE,

The saying profits trew in me: he who once passis the boundis of modestie is ever afterwardis impudent. Your Maiefties gratiouse acceptance of my former indevors hes maid me so confident as I spair not to say and wryt any thing that I judge for your Hienes service. What counse I haif kepte and what successe I haif fund in my entrie wilbe declarit be the berar vnto your Maieftie, for he wes ane eye witness to all that wes done. Sir, I wil reioyce in no Earthlie thing, saif your favour, and yit I trust your Maieftie wil beare with me to say that quhich wes: My cunning brocht suche contentment to al fortis of peple, that in the partis quhair my service lyes, nothing wes heard but prayers for your Maieftie and gratulationis of the worke intendit. The Ministrie, althocht carnellie sollicit to mak oppositioun, professit thay wald gif obedience to your Maieftie, and conform tham selfis to the ordinancis of the Kirk; quhairin every one of that number hes merit his own commendatioun; but the Principal of the Colledge² by al the rest, who is the man that in effect hes keptit al others fast and constant to your Maiefties purpose. And yit, Sir, left I fuld want matter of exercise, thair begin in this Citie, by privat counsels and publick spechis in pulpit, to do what thair can for my disgrace, and wil nedis, becaufe I haif toppit this matter (for so thair speik), bend al thair forcis against me. Sire, I fear not that enemy in so gud a cause, speciallie quhair your Maiefties autoritie and Royall power is assisting;³ but I wryt this to

¹ Mr John Spottiswood.² Mr Patrick Sharpe.

" 1605, August 21.—*Mr Johnne Spottiswood, Bishop of Glasgow*.—The Moderator and bretherene of the Presbiterie of Glasgw, heirand the propositioun maid to thame be thair brother Mr Johnne Spottiswood Bishop of Glasgow, quhairin he schawis that he is some heirefter, God willing, to pas to his Majestic towardis the Southe partis of Greit Brittain, and that he cravis thair licence, seing for a tyme he will be absent fra his thok: The said Moderator and Bretherene grants to the said Mr Johnne licence to pas to his Maiestie some heirefter, ament the ellaires of the Kirk.

" And quhair also the said Mr Johnne cravis a testimoniall fra the said Presbiterie, to be subscrivit be thame, that he hes not as yit subscrivit the Admissioun past in his

hald your Hienes in mynd of the general busines, quhilk being perfectit, sal gif a conclusioun to thir and suchlyk broyles. I haif presumit to gif the berar sum instructiouns to be communicat to your Maieftie touching our materis, quhilk I trust your Hienes sal favorablie interpret; and if in your wisdome thai falbe fund meit, your Maieftie will haif care to fe tham profecute. Mean qhyll, Sir, gif me leave to remember Mr Jhon Hall his service and faythfulnes to your Maieftie, qho sictis heir with many discontenments, offerit cheiffie to him be his collegis. I haif affurit him many tymis, of your Maiefties favore: in his particuler, quhilk the berar is to fute, your Hienes wilbe pleit to gif him ane testimonie of your gudwill. As to the berar him selfe,¹ I can adde nothing to the commendatioun your Maieftie hes so often gifin him, but this onlie, that the other syd ar lamenting his defectioun; and this I mentioun to gif your Maieftie sum sperte. Now, Sir, crasing humble pardon of your Maieftie for this my presuming, I tak my leave.

Your Maiefties humble and vowit
servant to his deathe,

GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, the 23 of Januar, 1605.

To his most sacred Maieftie.

[23 Jan. 1605.—Sp[ottiswood] B. of Glascew shawes that he was received B. at Glascew with great applaus, albeit sum contradic-tione, and Mr Johne Hall's faithfull feryyce to the King.]

favouris to the Bishoprik of Glasgw, The said Moderator and Bretherene grantis that a testimonial be writtin and subseryvit be thame, to be delyverit to the said Mr Johnne. quharin thai may testife that the said Mr Johnne hes not as yit subseryvit the said ad-missioun, past be the last Synodall Assemblie in his favouris to the said Bishoprik of Glasgw," &c.—Extracts from the Registers of the Presbytery of Glasgow, in the Mait-land Miscellany. vol. i., p. 405.)

¹ Apparently Mr James Law (see *supra*, page 10). He was promoted at this time to the See of Orkney.

VII.—THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AT ABERDEEN
TO KING JAMES.

IT MAY PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

The grypt necessitie off our effairis in generall, and off the particular dealing wee haue this lang tyme laid with the Marques off Huntlie,¹ does enforce ws, in all reuerence and humbill submissioun, to acquaint your Majestie with all our proceedingis and present difficulties, quhairwith wee ar straitit; and that be ane off our awin number, our loving brother, Mr Jhone Forbes, off quhome, baith for his fidelitie and vprichitnes, and for his sincere affectioun borne to the advancement off the kingdome of God, your Majesteis feruice, and peace off the land, wee haue maid speciall choise; and haue authorisit him with owr commissioun toward your Hienes, beseiking your Majestie in all humbill and hartlie affectioun to grant him your Majesteis gratefull acceptance and favorabill countenance, with ane indifferent care, in his delyverie off suche thingis to your Majestie as we haue committed to his credit; trusting so far to the constant assurance quhilk our hartis does still brook off your Majesteis vnechangeabill stedfastnes and continuance in your Hienes godlie zeall and fordwart affectioun, ever hitherto borne, and at all tymes clearlie manifestit, to the maintenance and promoving off the licit and libertie off the gosPELL of Jesus Christ, not onlie in the mater off doctrine, bot also in the ordour off gouernement and diseipline theirin manifestit; that gif your Majestie graunt him audience but prejudice, hee fall giue your Majestie ane full contentment of all proceedingis, and fall obtein at your Majesteis handis ane gratiows answer to all owr humbill and lawfull desyres; all tending to the glorie off God, advancement of your Hienes honor, and forder quyeting of your Majesteis subiectis; the report quhairof, committing to the sufficiencie of owr Commissionar

¹ George sixth Earl, and first Marquess of Huntly. A letter addressed by him to the King, on the 20th November 1604, relating to the proceedings of the Aberdeen Presbytery against him, is printed in the volume of "Letters and State Papers of the Reign of King James the Sixth," Edinb. 1838, 4to.

forfaid, in all reuerence, fubmiſſioun and humilitie off owr hartis, wee tack our leaue, beſecking God to graunt vnto your Majestie long and prosperous reigne. From our Aſſembly at Aberdein the tuentie ane day of Februar ane thowſand ſex hundreth and fyve zeiris.

Your Majesties humbill ſubjectis,

A. BLARBURN.

CHAIRLIS FERM.

AD. BURNET.

MR. ROBERT REID,

Scryb to the Provinciall
Aſſembly of Aberdein.

P. BLARBURNE.

M. DAVID RAIT,

Moderator.

G. HAY.

MR. JAMES ROSS.

M. JAMES GUTHRE, Moderatour of the Provinciall Aſſembly of Murray.

GEORGE DOUGLAS, ane of the Commiſſioneris of Murray.

J. DUNDASS, Commiſſionar for Murray.

To the King his moſt excellent Maieſtie.

VIII.—SIR ALEXANDER STRATOUN OF LAURESTOUN TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it pleis your moſt excellent Maieſtie: According to your Maieſties command, I aſſemblyt the Commiſſioneris, with quhome I haue brocht all your Maieſties direcciounes to ane gud end. Speciallie the actioun intendit aganis Mr Robert Bruce is ordourlie deduceet, and eſter great paines and meakill heiring, reſſauit ſentence conforme to the ſummondis raifit aganis him, he decernit diſſobedient, diſchargit frome the Miniſtrie of Edinburgh, and his place declarit vacant. In this caus I behovit nocht onlie to be ane yden ſolicitar of the Judges: but alſua comperit as ane accuſar to mak the judgment formall: and thairfoir haue incurrit of the Puritanes inſupportabill malice. For informeing of your Maieſtie in the particularis of this dyet, and for obteneing health at

the baignes, I am to repair, God willing, schortlie to your Maiefties most gracious prefence: At quhilk tyme I fall geve account of my feruice, hoiping (for ocht I knaw) of guid acceptance, baith in respect of affectionat panes, and guid succes. Sua wifeheing your Maieftie ane lang, happie, and prosperous Reganne, humblie takis my leve. Edinburgh, the fourt of Marche 1605.

Your Maiefties maist humble obedient
subject and feruitour,

LAURENSTOWNE.

To the Kingis most excellent
facred Maieftie.

IX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO KING JAMES.

SIRE,

Pleis your Maieftie, I an forcit to tak the opportunitie of this berar, and complein of the misorder that is in thir pulpites of Edinburgh. Qhairas your Maieftie gaif command, that til the vacant rowmis wer plantit, supplie fuld be maid be suche as the Commissionaris wald name, this hes ben cast of vnadyfitlie vpon the Ministers tham sellis, and thai inioynit to suffer none enter thair rowmis but suche as thai wald answer for. Yit, Sir, it is fallen out so, that be the Presbiteries appointing of thair number one after another to those plaeis, *we haif heir daylie inuectiuis maid againjt Bischopis, that stae, and us directlie qho haif interpryfit that seruice; and nothing is left vndone that can work a disgrace or contempte to this worke withe the peple. Nether laws of Assemblies nor intimatioun of your Maiejties displeasure, nor our innocent and epricht proceedingis, can worke us peace at thair handis.* Your Maieftie heirfore wilbe pleisit to wryt to the Commissionaris and command tham to tak present order heirwith, and, failzeing thai do thair dewties, to the Countel to sic to it; for the example will do muche hurte, if in

the beginning thir thingis be not repressit. I haif writtin to the Lard of Lowristoun to conven the Commissionaris for this purpose vpon the tent of Apryl nexte. It fal do muche gud to haif your Maiefties letteris against that dyet, and to cause my Lord President present the sam, with ane declaratioun of your Maiefties wil in those thingis. Thus far I am bold with your Maieftie, out of that care that I haif to advance your Highnes service: And now kissing your Maiefties handis, with al reverence, I tak my leave.

Your Maiefties humble and
obedient servant,

GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, the 22 of Marche, 1605.

To his most excellent Maieftie.

X.—SIR ALEXANDER STRATOUN OF LAURESTOUN TO KING JAMES.

SIR.

Pleis your most excellent sacrat Maieftie: Of lait I acquaintit your Maieftie auent the proceeding of the Sinod of Fyff, specialie thair purposis of keeping ane General Assamble at Aberdein the fyft of Julij nixt; for preventing of quhilk attemp, the Commissionaris and I haif declarit your Maiefties plefour heirin, and haif requyrit, yea commandit tham and al other Sinodis in North Britane, to forbeir ony sik meting. Yet informit they meane nocht to ceafs, hes takin resolutionne to avait on that day and place, to resist thair meting with authoritie if they mint thairto. The Towne of Edinburcht (vith quhom I haif bitterlie contestit) of new hes gevin in leitis, the most pairt inelynis to haif Mr Patrik Galloway to supplie that vacant place in thair Kirk (ilk yeir producis new effectis); but sence that matter is yet in deliberatione, the Bischop of Galloway, quha with diligence is to repair to your Maieftie, in that and al other particularis concerning the Kirk, vil gif your Maieftie cleir relatione.

Wiffing your Maieftie long, hapie, and proſperous rainge, I humlie kiſs
your Hienes handis.

Your Maiefties moſt humble obedient
ſubjeet and fervitour,

LAURENSTONE.

Edinburght, ij of Maij 1605.

To the Kingis moſt excellent
Sacred Maieftie.

XI.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

It may pleaſe your maift ſacred Maieftie: I haiff delyvered your
Hienes letters to my Lordis Chancelar and Prefident, anent thair dealing
with my Lord Spynie touching his ſatiſſaſtioun for his infeſtment of the
few mailes and cuſtomes off the Biſchoprik of Murraye. Thair wes na
occaſioun of meiting betuix thame and him till now. I am attendand
upoun a conference betuix thame within thir tua dayes, efter the quhilk
your Maieftie ſalbe adverted with convenient diligence. And quhat
neidfull to be done in the meane tyme for furthering of that mater, I
have referred to be declared to your Maieftie be the Biſchopp of Gallo-
waye. To his ſufficiencie tharefor remitting, I humillye tak my leiſſ,
continuing my earniſt prayaris for the daylie increſce and continu-
ance of your Maieſteis maift happie and bleſſed eſtate in faull and
bodye.

Your Maieſteis maift humill fervitour
and daylie Oratour,

ALEXANDER DOWGLASS.

Edinburgh, the nynteing daye
off Junij 1605.

To his moſt ſacred Maieftie.

XII.—MR ROBERT BRUCE, MINISTER OF EDINBURGH, TO KING JAMES.

[The two following letters from Mr Robert Bruce have no date, and may belong to a later period. They are here introduced in connection with the Charge of the Privy Council in Scotland, in August 1605, copied from some fragments of a missing volume of the Records lately discovered. The long-continued persecution of Bruce, on account of the sentiments he expressed in regard to the Gowrye Conspiracy, will elsewhere be alluded to.

INSTRUCTIONES FOR HIS MAJESTIES COMMISSIONERS DIRECT TO MR ROBERT BRUCE.

[January 1602.]

“ Quidder he be throuchlie resolutit now, of the forme and maner of the tresonabill attempt commitit aganes his Majesty at Perth; and speciallie of his Majesties honest mynd, intentione, and marvelous delyverie; and off Gowrie and his Brother's wyld and bludie Conspiracie, intendit to the taking away of his Majesties lyff; as it is sett downe in the Prince's book thairanent, or nocht?

“ As his doubting of that turne hes bene the principall cause of thedoubt of mony and of his Hienes sklandir in that point, gif he be willing to uttir in pulpit, in sic placis as salbe appoyntit, his Resolutioun thairin, according to the forme of the saidis Articles, as cleirly, as ony of his Majesties guid subjectis hes done; craving pardone, and excussing his lang incredulitie, and the sklandir arysing thairupone; and abusing the pepill that ony way doubtit thair of, as they were ever reddie to conceive doubtis vpoune onjust groundis, onlie movit be his exempell, sa now to be content be his meanes, rychtly to be resolutit thei of.

(*Sic subscribitur*) “ JAMES REX.”

CHARGE AGANIS MR ROBERT BRUCE.

Apud EDINBURGH, Octavo die mensis Augusti 1605.

“ Forsamekle as albeit the moist detestable and horrible treasoun conspyrit be the traytour Gowry and his Brother aganis the sacred persone of oure moist gracious Souerayne, be euident and manifest to the consciences of all his Maiestis guid subjectis, and that his Maiestie hes gevin moist cleir testimoneis for removing of distrust of all these quha by curiositie, privat affectioun, or prepoisterous opinionis, wer caryed and led in that mater, neuirtheles Maister Robert Bruce, minister, apprehending a maist sinister distrust and opinioun of his Maiesties sinceritie in that mater, notwithstanding of all the evidenceis quilkis in reasoun mycht haue gevin vnto him contentment thairin, he hes continewalie sensyne not onlie remanit constant and resolute in his distrust, bot be his behaviour and conferrenceis in privat and publick meittings and assembleis, he vtteris and publictly avowis his said distrust,

drawing thairby mony simple and ignorant personis to harkin vnto him, and in some meassour to fauoure his opinioun : ffor the quhilk he being moist iustlie and worthelie banischt this Realme, and found vnworthlie of the ayre of his native cuntry ; yit oure moist gracious Souerayne, quha in his actionis, especialie with these of the Ministerie, hes euir kythit himaself a moist element and mercifull Prince, seiking rathir by fair and gentill meanis to move thame to be conformable, then be execution of the law to punishe thair offences, Recallit him [hame] that at lenth he sould haue acknawlegit his errour, [and] gevin vnto his Maiestie satisfioun : And now his Majestie [persa]yving cleirly that nathir proces of tyme nor na vther [thing] can move the said Mr Robert to frame his opiniounis [to the] treuth, and to procure his Maiesteis obediencie, Bot that he intertenyis a maist frequent resorte alswele of numberis of the Ministerie as of vther people towardis him, and in all thair meitings mellis in the cffairis of his Maiestie and his Estate, sometyme discoursing vpon the proceidings of his Maiesteis Counsale, and sometymes censuring the doings of the Ministerie, foistering thairby factionis and divisoun in the Kirk, and privat grudgeis and miscontentment aganis the present Gouvernement, His Maiestie thairfore hes moist iust caus to tak ordoure with him, and to exyle him the hail boundis of his Maiesteis dominionis. And yit his Sacred Maiestie following his accustumat dispositioun and inclinatioun, quhilk hes euir tendit to pitye and not to punishe : And abstening fra that rigour and extremitie quhilk the said Mr Robert maist worthelie merites, and nevirtheles willing to remoue the ocaisioun quhairby he may pervert sic of his Maiesteis subiectis as repairs to him, his Maiestie hes commandit that he be wairdit within the burgh of Innernes, quhill it sall pleis his Maiestie to gif forder directioun towardis him, according as he sall find his behaiour : Thairfore the Lordis of Secrite Counsale, Ordainis letters to be direct, chargeing the said Mr Robert Bruce to pas and entir his persone in waird within the said burgh of Innernes, thair to remaine vpon his awne expensses, ay and quhill he be fred and releuit be his Majestie and his Counsale, within Ten dayis next eftir the Charge, vnder the pain of rebelloun, &c. : And gif he failzie, to denunce.”]

PLAS YOUR MAESTIE.

Wpon the directione fend to me by your Hienes Confell, I thought it meitt, be my awin letter, to testifie my resolucione to your Maiestie in that mater of Gowrie. Your Maiestie cannot be ignorant in quhatt termes I paffit my Resolucioum att Sanct Jonstoun. That resolucioum is as yitt extant,¹ fublerywitt be monie honest vitneffes. To that

¹ The following is a copy of the RESOLUTION OF MR ROBERT BRUCE, dated at St Johnston or Perth, in June 1602 :—

“ At Perth, 20th June 1602. Further, concerning the heads within contained, I am resolved of his Majesty's innocency, and of the guiltiness of the Earl of Gowrie and his

refolutioun, both in mater and maner, I adhear, and fra it I am nott myndit to pafs, be God his grace. This refolutioun gaue your Maieftie perfytt contentment than, and I doubt nott bott it vill do the lyk yitt. So luiking that your Maieftis feruiple falbe fullie fatified in that mater, I reft,

Your Maieftie his moft humble
and obedient fubject,

M. ROBERT BRUCE.

To his Maieftie.

XIII.—MR ROBERT BRUCE TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

PLEAS YOUR HONORIS,

I receawed your letteris on Setterday the 13th of this infant, and for fatiffaētioune thairoff I hawe directed my letter conteining my awin Refolutioun in that mater vnto his Majestie. My refolutioun nov is relatiwe to my refolutioun att Sanct Jonftoun, quilk was dyttit by his Maiefties felff, and fubferywet by monie honeft vitneffes beyd me, quha ar yitt liwing. This Refolutioun gawe his Maieftie perfyt contentment then, and I doubt nott bot it will do the lyk yitt: for unto thatt Refolutioun I adheir, both in matter and maner. And I am readdie to teftifie the fame, fo oft as his Maieftie pleases, by my awin hand vreit. Sa luiking that your Honoris fall not be forder trublit in that mater, I reft,

Your Honouris to be commandit
to his povar in God,

MR. ROBERT BRUCE.

To his Maiefties moft honorable
Priue Confell.

Brother, according as it is declared by the Act of Parliament [15 November 1600]: And therefore acknowledge the great mercy of God towards his Majesty, whole Kirk, and Country, in his Majesties deliverance; for the quhilk, I thank God from my heart.

(*Sic subscribitur*) "MR ROBERT BRUCE."

XIV.—MR JOHN HALL, MINISTER OF EDINBURGH, TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

Pleis your Majestie, the rare and strange accidents of this late tyme hes much affected the hartis of your people heir, for weying your Hienes danger, and therwith depelie considering quhat could be the case of the haill countrey, lyfis of all, and religioun, if God did permit your Royall State to the pleasure of your enemies, hes confavit such sollicitud for your Majestie, that the prayers of the people, priuat and publict, never ceassis for your Majestie to God, and the glaidnes of your Hienes preferatioun hes set your Majestie verie depe in the hartis of all, quha now loucis your Majestie not onlie as their naturall and gracious King, bot also as the onlie Prince in this adge, in whose hart is seatted widdome and religioun, whose lyfe is dear to God, preserved to the gude of his Kirk bayth at hame and far of. One point of honour your Majestie hes acquired, that the Antichryst, the enemy of God, hes oppinlie set his ey on yow, as his greitest aduersarie in the earth; bot this is ane uther point of greiter worth, that God in his wonderfull deliyuerance¹ hath made a felaw of your Majestie as his singular freind, and a Prince thocht worthie be whose hand the Antichryst fuld be brocht down, and his crownes cast underfoot; for this must be done, and Who is to do it? God sent Moses against Egypt, Josua against Canaan, and Constantine of Britane blood against Gentill Idolatrie. The same God hes King James to set against the Popedome. God giwe your Majestie comfort and strenght in thir assauntis, for we trust to God that all thir cruell plottis fall present vnto your Royall thoctis no thing else bot a resolutioun to manteyne God his trenth, and to ouerthrow that tyrannie wherby foullis ar spoilled, and the lyfis of gude princis always inperelled.

Amidst thir wechtie effairis I must craue leaue of your Majestie to speik sumthing of our effairis at hame. The Kirk of Edinburgh wald be suppleit with sum men of note and approved seruice. We haue

¹From "the Gunpowder Plot," on the 5th of November 1605.

thocht vpon Mr Patrik Galloway, your Majesties Minister, now vacand fra the employment of your seruice. The Confall and Kirk of Edinburgh hes bene earnest with him to support them for a seafon, meaning also to draw on his plantationn for ane ordinarie pastor heirefter: he hes referrit his anfuere therein to your Majesties direction. His being heir will put the people to sum quyetnes, the pulpet to better edificationn, and the haill Kirk of this country nicht the better be kept fra idle confaittis, and unneccessarie work. I trust your Majestie will consider of it. It wer great pleafour to ws, if a letter [should be sent] bering your Hienes directionn and charge to Mr Patrik theranent; also a letter wold be directed to my Lord Chancellour Provest of Edinburgh,¹ that he nicht deall with all handis, both the Town and Mr Patrik, for inbringing of him hither, and for his plantationn when occasion seruis; a thrid letter of your Majesties wald be directit ordaning the Commissionaris of the Generall Assemblie to meit and interpone the credit of ther office in this mater, and vtheris your Maieftie hes ado. Your Hienes charge wold be to them to appoint Mr Patrik for a seafoun to Edinburgh, with your Maiefties good will and desyre that they fuld plant him Minister ther,² so sone as the Town craues it of them. Wisching with my hart and daylie prayer your Maiefties long lyfe, happie regnne, and God his perpetuall favour and his defence, humblye takis my leave. 2 December 1605.

Your most excellent Majesties
rycht humble subject,

JOHNE HALL, Minister
at Edinburgh.

To the Kingis most excellent
Majestie.

¹ Alexander Earl of Dunfermline, Lord Chancellor, when Lord Fyvie, and President of the Court of Session, was elected Provost of Edinburgh, in 1598, and he continued to hold that office for ten years successively.

² This accordingly took place, in June 1607. (Calderwood's Hist., vol. vi. p. 667.) See his own letter to the King, dated 7th April 1607.

XV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I wes in the way towardis your Hienes,¹ qhen it wes my gud happe to meit my Lord the Erle of Dumbar, qho requyrit me to stay a qhyl, vpon ane opinioun his Lordship hes, that my fervice heir at this tym may be stedable. I yeldit willinglie, as hafing no other desyr but to do your Maieftie fervice, qhairevir, at home or abroad. Amongest vther thingis, I wes to haif merit to your Hienes the grit preindice that is done to our Kirk effairis be this detening of the Ministeris in ward, the burthen thairof being cast vpon ws, of purpose to mak your Maiefties designe in the erecting of Bishops the more hatit, and other discontentit spritis serving tham with this as a ground to worke sum vnqwyetnes in the State. This, Sir, I impute only to the negleete of your Maiefties directiouns gifin in that mater, qhiles we wer togither at Courte, the suspicioun of qhilk negleete I persaisit your Maieftie had even at that tym. But qhat hes ben your Hienes gud plesure since the vsing of thair Declinatour, I never vnderstod til my Lord his cumming hither, saif that a brute went of the calling tham before the Justice; and none wil deny that is found myndit, but thair haif merit a more hard dealing, yit as matteris are now handlit, and the peple disposit, any man feis it sal not go for your Maiefties honour and contentment. *Thairfore, Sir, out of a sincere affliction to your Hienes, am I bold, in maijt humble wyse, to entreat your Maieftie, that it may be your graciouse plesure to supersed that busines, and renew onlie your Maiefties first commandementis, that so many as stand obstinatlie at the defence of thair proceedingis, may, by sentence of Counsel, be exylit your Maiefties countrey, and otheris that wil aeknowledge thair errors, may be confyuit within thair parochis during your Hienes gud plesure.* Quhilk opinioun, if it sal pleise your most excellent Maieftie in your wisdome to approve, than, Sir, let me desyre this farder, that the sam

¹ See note *supra*, page 12.

² This sentence interlined in the original.

may be done during the Erle of Dumbar his residing heir, or els, I am of opinioun, your Maieftie shal never see it concludit. This, and many other thingis, Sir, ar done of mere policie, to disapoint your Maiefties effairis in the Parliament, speeciallie that concerne our Estait. But if it pleise God, your Maieftie shal haif, or it be long, a more particular narratioun of thingis, and assurance sufficient, as I hope, for ane happie successe of that service that is so gritlie opposit vnto. Mean whyl, Sir, I must also signifye to your Maieftie the invaliditie of the renunciatioun maid be the Duke of Lennox of the Bishoprick of Glasgo, that the same may be renewit, and to that effect, your Hienes wilbe pleasit to continew that particular designatioun of landis, quhilk his Lordship is futing presentlie to my cuming vp, that your Maieftie may haif the securitie that is requyrit, seing his satisfactioun is so great.

As for sum particular iniuries offerit me, quhilk it hes pleasit my Lord of Dumbar to mentioun in his letter to your Maieftie, I wil not repeat tham, and I trust be his Lordships meanis to be reparit. For this tyme I cease, crasing your Maiefties humble pardon for this my importunitie, and praying God Almychtie to blesse your Hienes with a longe and happie regne.

Your Maiefties most humble and
obedient fervitor,

GLASGOW.¹

Edinburgh the 26 of December
1605.

To his most sacred Maieftie.

XVI.—KING JAMES TO MR JOHN CAULDCLEUCH.

[There are two previous missives, addressed by the King to Cauldeleuch, in Balfour's MSS. (A. 2, 52, Nos. 4 and 5). The one dated the 14th August 1600, commands

¹ Indorsed,—“ 26 December 1605.—Sp. B. of Glasgow shawes how he wold have the ministeris that kepted the Assembly of Abirdeen 1605 crossed: and of the Duke of Lenox dimissione of the Bishoprik of Glasgou.”

him to be present at the meeting at Falkland, on the 20th of that month, "for your best advise and opinioun to be had, anent the planting of the Kirkis of Edinburgh; the forme and manner of the universall thankis and prayse that salbe gevin to God in every congregatioun and kirk within this Realme, for Our miraculous delyuerie of that treasonabill Conspiracy intendit laittlie aganis ws at Saint Johnstone be unquiblie Johnne Erll of Gowrie, the Master his broder, and thair associattis; and for your advise to be gevin in sic uther our great and wechtie effairis, as salbe particularlie impartit to you at your cuning."

The second letter addressed to Cauldeleuch is dated the 16th January 1601, and desires him to be present at a meeting of the Commissioners of the Kirk, on the 10th February, at Holyroodhouse, "to gif your best adyise anent the withstanding and dissapoynting of the practizes of the ennymeis of the trew religioun; and for ordour taking anent settling of the Ministerie of Edinburgh, as sall be thoelt expedient." In 1599, Cauldeleuch, who had been third Master or Professor of Eeclesiastical History in the New College, St Andrews, was translated to Abdie, in Fife. Notwithstanding the prospect of preferment held out to him in this letter, and his constant support of the King's designs in Eeclesiastical affairs, he appears to have remained as Minister of that parish till his death, in 1622.]

JAMES R.

Trufty and wellbeloued, Wee greete yow hartely well. Wee are certified by the Laird of Lawrefton, our Commiffioner, of your greate paynes and care in our seruice for advancement of all thinges that may produce the quyete estate of the Church in that our Countrey, and therein haue receaved greate contentment; wherefor Wee hane thought good hereby to assure yow that Wee will not be vnyndfull thereof, but as occasion shall offer Wee meane to take order for your benefite and preferment, according as by the said Laird of Lawrefton yee shall be more particularely enformed. Thus, willing yow to contynue in your former good cariage and dewtyfull endeououris for furthering of our seruice, as Wee shall euer eary our especiall mynd both to remember and reward yow, Wee bid yow hartely farewell, from our Courte at Qulytchall, the xxvij of December 1605.

To our trufty and wellbelouit

Mr Johnne Cauldeleuch, minister.

XVII.—MR PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

I receauit this penult of December your Maiefties letter, deated the 24. of December, directing me to conuene the Commissionars of the Generall Afflemble for your Maiefties seruice, as also that I fuld, by my letters to enery province where the vñall Synodes ar kepted, acquaynt thame with your Maiefties speciall pleasure and will, To haue there Synodes to be kepted in the moneth of Februar nixt, without longer delay.

According to the whiche letter I haue this 1. of Januar wrettin 25. letters for the Commissionars to meete at Edinburgh the 28. of this instant, and lykwyfe 15. letters to the feuerall provinces, for fullfilling your Maiefties pleasure heirin, and haue delyuered them to Sir Jhone Arnott, your Maiefties tresaurer-depute, in heaft to be fend away.

Now, Sir, it restis that your Maieftie aduysc upon such heades and articles as falbe proponed at the meeting of the Commissionars, and vpon those rules, and direçiones your Maieftie wald withe performed in the Synodes, and with all convenient speed direct thame hither, that your Maiefties knowin freyndis and seruandis being rypelic advyfed therewith befor the tyme, may kyth in tyme, as becometh thame, and that it be not iustlic obiected be onfreyndis that such meetingis ar needles, quhere no mater of importance is to be handlet: I withe from my hart lowing obedience to be geuin to your Maiefties direçiones be all fortes of men, as I falbe an paterne, and, to my pouer, a procurer thereof myselff: And I beseeche your Maieftie so wyfelie to direct, as he may be compted worthelye, in the estimatione off honest men, an wndutifull man that will not follow your Maiefties direçion.

My Lord of Dumbar, your Maiefties faythfull and lowing seruand, dois good offices, and prooues anc profitabill messenger from your Maieftie in all fortes off your Maiefties adois heer, for he deales very foundlie and seuerelye aneughe with some of our humorifts, as occasion offerres, and with authoritie lattes thame wnderstand your Maiefties

meaning, that they may conforme thamefelues thereto. So most hartely commending your Maiesties persone, and affaires, with your Maiesties Queene, Children, Counsell, Estates, and familye to the all sufficient protection, and blessing of Almighty God (as my daylie and ductifull prayer is). And wishing wnto your Maiestie and honorable Counsell, and high incres of wisdom to try, and curage to punish that monifronous and wmaturrall Conspiracie, So that it may be said of England, for punishing of this treason aganist King James the first in it, that was said of Scotland for punishing of the treason aganist King James the first in it, be Æneas Sylvius in his tynue: "As the treason, for wylenes, stained the Nation, so the accurat tryall and exact punishment of it, for justice, advanced and honored the Nation." I most humble take my lesse, from Edinburgh, this 1. of Januar 1606.

Your Maiesties most humble and
hartye Seruitour,

M. P. GALLOWAY.

To his most excellent Maiestye, the
Monarche of Great Brittain.

XVIII.—MR JOHN SCHARP, MINISTER OF KILMANY, TO KING
JAMES.

[This letter has no date, and was subsequent to the trial at Linlithgow in January 1606, but it may be given in this place in connection with the following extracts from the fragments of the Privy Council Records, already mentioned. The letter of the King's Advocate (No. XIX.), communicates to the King the result of the proceedings against the Six Ministers, imprisoned at Blackness, when they were brought to trial at Linlithgow. After some months delay, they were sentenced to banishment by the King.

"Apud Edinburgi, Secundo die mensis Augusti 1605.

"Ament the chairage gevin be vertew of oure Soueraigne Lordis letters to Mr Robert Durie, minister at Anstruthir, Mr Alex^r. Strauchane, minister at Creich, Mr

Andro Duncane, minister at Caraell, and Mr Johnne Schairj, minister at Kilmany, To haue compeirit personalie before the Lordis of Secrite Counsale at ane certayne day bigane, to haue anssverit to sic thingis as sould haue bene demandit of thame and layd to thair charge, tuiching the vnauchfull Assemblie haldin at Abirdene in the moneth of July last, and quhat wes thair behaiour in that Assemblie, [and] quhat hes bene directit, proceedit, or followit thervpoun sensyne, and to haue vnderlyne sic ordoure as sould haue bene tane thairanent, vndir the pane of rebelioun and puting of thame to the horne, with certification to thame and they failzet, letters sould be direct *simpliciter* to put thame thereto, lyke as at mair lenth is containit in the saidis letters, executionis, and indorsationis thairrof. Quhillkis being callit, and all the saidis personis compeirand personalie, and being particularlie examinat vpoun the forme and maner of thair convening and halding of the said Assemblie, and gif they think the same to be a lauchfull Generall Assemblie, they all confessit, and declairit that they wer present at the said Assemblie, and that they think the same to be a lauchfull Generall Assemblie. In respect quhairof, Ordains thame to be committit to waird within the Castell of Blacknes, thairin to remain, vpoun thair awne expences, ay and quhill they be fred and releuit be the Kingis Maiestie and his Counsale, and that they entir thair personis in the said waird within xxiiij hours next efter the dait heirof, vndir the pane of horning."

Mr John Forbes, minister of Alford, and Mr John Welsh, minister of Ayr, had previously been imprisoned, on the 27th of July. On the 8th of August, the Privy Council issued a Proclamation concerning the unlawfulness of the Assembly at Aberdeen, which is printed in Calderwood, vol. vi. p. 289; and in the Booke of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii. p. 1918. On the 3d of October, the subject is thus resumed in the Minutes of Privy Council:—

“ Apud Perth, Tertio die mensis Octobris, Anno 1605.

SEDERUNT.

COMMISSIONAIR.	NEWBOTLE.	CRANSTOUN RIDDELL.
CHANCELLAIR.	ABIRCORNE.	PRIUEY SEALL.
ANGUSS.	B. OF ROSS.	S ^r ROBERT MELVILL eldair.
ARGYLE.	B. OF DUNKELD.	S ^r ROBERT MELVILL younger.
LINLITHGW.	HALYRUDHOUSE.	S ^r JAMES SKRYMGEOUR.
MARSHALL.	BLANTYRE.	S ^r GEORGE DOUGLAS.
GLAMMIS.	COLLECTOUR.	
HEREIS.	ADUOCAT.	

The first entry, at this meeting, is “ Anent the Ministeris that held the Assemblie at Abirdene,” of whom seventeen (including John Ross, whose name is omitted in the first part of the minute) appeared; and ten of them, being dealt with, “ confessit that the said Assemblie was nocht ane lauchfull Generall Assemblie,” and

they were appointed to return home to their flocks; the other seven, namely, Mr Charles Pharam, Mr Johne Monro, Mr James Irwing, Mr William Forbes, Johne Ross, Mr Nathane Inglis, and Mr James Greg, having declared "that the said pretended Assemblie was a verie lauchfull Generall Assemblie," they were committed to ward, in the Castles of Doun, Strivling, and Dumbartane.

ANENT THE MINISTERS IN THE BLACKNES.

"The quhilk day, the Lordis of Secrite Counsale, according to his Maiesteis directioun, hes ordanit, and ordanis, that the sex ministeris presentlie in waird within the Castell of Blacknes, for halding of ane Assemblie at Abirdene vponn the seund day of Julij last, sal be put in seuerall chalmers, at the leist twa and twa of thame togidder, and that nane be sufferit to haue access vnto theme, nor they thame selfis to meit togidder, without a warrand of the Counsale; and that a directioun be gevin to the Captane and Constable of the Blacknes for that effect."

The following submissive letter had no effect in inducing the King to remit the sentence of banishment.]

MOST GRACIOUSE SOVRANGNE,

The clemencie quhilk hes appeirit att all tymes in your Hienes towardis all your Maiefties subjectis, giffis me sum hope thatt my humble fuit and supplicatioun for your Hienes favour and pardoun fall not be misregairditt: and thairfoir vRING no argument to procur the sam, faiff your Maiefties foirmer kyndnes to men off my calling and professioun, quhairas I have offendit your Hienes, first, in meeting att Aberdein with these few off the Ministrie thatt convenitt thair aganst your Maiefties command: Then, in declyning your Hienes Privie Councell, being brocht to tryall with vthers, my breethrein, twiching thatt mater: And last, quhilk grivis me most, in the willfull and obstinatt defending off the said actiounes, notwithstanding off your Maiefties displeasour intimatt to me and the rest off us quha wer joyntt in those buifnessis, off all quhilk I now repentt my self, and am wneinzedly forie; craiffing maiff humble your Maiefties pardoun and favour theranent, I will promise, and be thir presents solemnly sweare, to all amendment and reparatioun thatt possible lyeis in me off thes faultis, and fall indevoir my self, by my contin-wall prayers to God Abnichte for your Hienes guid and prosperous Estait, and all humble and serviceabllie obedience thatt can be givine be ony sik unwoorthe subject as I am, to mak itt appear thatt this your

Majesties favour bestowitt vpon me fall nott be schewitt to ane ungrate or wnmmyndfull perfoun. And so, withoutt farder importuning your Hienes, I craive maist humblie on my knyis your Maiesties pardoun, and gracious anwer to this my fuitt.

Your Maiesties most humblle
and puir subject,

MR JHONE SCHARPE,
Minister at Kilmanie,
with my hand.

NIX.—SIR THOMAS HAMILTON, KING'S ADVOCATE, TO KING JAMES.¹

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

My confaued feir, that my filence could not find owt any lawfull excuse, if I fould not aduerteis your Maiestie, of the progres and cuent of the criminall perfute of Maisters Johne Forbes, Welfche, and vtheris. thair complices, before your Maiesties Justice, for thair treasonable declyning your Maiestie and your Secret Counfallis iugement, makis my [me] bauld to wryte in that mater; which, als weill in respect of ane most heich poynt, and lairge pairt, of your Maiesties authoritie royall, brocht in question, be the ignorant and inflexible obstinacie of these defendares, as in regaird of the most cairefull expectatioun of ane great pairt of your hienes subiectis in this your kingdome, onerdoutfunlie

¹ Lord Hailes, in printing this letter, has added the following note:—

“ This letter gives a more lively idea of those times, than an hundred Chronicles can do. We see here the Prime Minister, in order to obtain a sentence agreeable to the King, address the Judges with promises and threats, pack the jury, and then deal with them *without scruple or ceremony*. It is also evident that the King's Advocate disliked the proceedings as impolitic and odious, but that he had not resolution to oppose them. The detail of this trial, and its consequences, may be found in Spotiswood and Calderwood.”—(*Memorials and Letters in the Reign of James the First.*)

distracted, during the incertan euent thair of, pairtlic be superstitious, and pairtlic by fayned zeale to thair professioun, and affection to thair persones for thair professiouns sake, being of so heich and dangerous consequence, as the miscaireing thair of nicht haue exemed ane great part of your Maiesties subiectis, from your Maiesties iurisdiction and obedience in maters of doctrine and discipline, and all vther thingis which they sould haue pleased to affirme to be of that nature; and thairwith haue giuen them occasion, and, as it wer, lawfull libertie, or libertie be your Maiesties awin lawis and sentencis, to haue menteaned that libertie anis purchalled and daylie to haue increased the same, to the manifest perrell not onlie of farder impairing, bot, with tyme, of vtter subuerfioun of your royall power within this kingdome. God having now brocht it to that gude end, that, efter langum, difficill, and most contentious trauellis, thay ar comiēt be assyse of that treasonabill declinatour. I sould omit als necessar ane poynt of my dewtie, as if I had not replied to their most probable alledgences, if I sould conceale from your Maiestie, that the first and greatest prayse of this gude succes sould be giuen to your Maiesties self, for foreseeing this mater to be of sik difficultie and danger, as it requyred the particular directioun of your Maiesties awin most excellent wisdom, be the report and profecution of my Lord of Dumbar, who I am assurit, in all this lyfe wes neuer so solist for the euent of the tryall of vther mens lyues; for at his heir cumming, finding that mater full, not onlie of foresee, bot also of vnexpected difficulties, his caire and diligence thairin hes bene so assiduell. wyfe and prouident, that having maid seeret choise of this tyme and place, which be effect hes proued most proper, and so vinelic expressed to your Maiesties Justice, Justice Clerk, and vtheris, members of that court, your Maiesties caire of the menteanance of your royall power, brocht in questioun be that proces, with the vndoubted fauour which they might expect be doing thair dewtie, and most certane disgrace and punisment gif in thair default ony thing sould miscairie; he proceeded thairafter to the preparatioun of sufficient forces, habill to execute all the lawfull commandementis of your Maiesties counfall, in your seruice, and for that purpose hauing brocht with him to this towne, ane very great number of honorabill baronis, and gentilmen of gude rank and wourth.

of his kinred and freindſhip, finding, beſyde vther great impedimentis, the cheif perrell to conſiſt in the want of ane honeſt Aſſyſe, who, without reſpect of popular fauour, report, threatningis or imprecationis, wald ſerue God and your Maieſtie in ane gude conſcience; for knawin default of conſtancie and gude affection in vthers, he wes compelled to cauſe his awin particular and privat kinfmen and freindis, to mak the maiſt pairt of the Aſſyſe, who being admittit vpon the ſame, gif he had not dealt in that poynt, but ſcrupuloſitie or ceremonies, to reſolue thame of the wounderfull dowt, whairin, by many meanes, and cheiffie be the thounding imprecationis of the pannell, and contentions reſiſtance of thair awin affociat aſſyfouris, thay wer caſſin, that haill pourpoſe had failled, to oure infinite greif and your Maieſties ouer great preiudice. For the gude ſucces whairof, I fall euer thank God, and euer pray him and your Maieſtie, to put ws to als few eſſayes in the lyke caſſes, as may poſſible ſtand with the weill of your Maieſties ſeruice, in reſpect of the ſcairectie of ſkilled and weill affected aſſyfouris in thir caſſes; for gif my Lord of Dumbar had wanted your Maieſties moſt prouident direſtioun, or if we had bene deſtitute of his wyſe and infinitie ſoliſt diligence and actioun in this purpoſe, in all mens iugementis it had loſſed; whairin our miſlue could neuer haue fund any excuſe, which nicht aither haue geuin ſatiſfactioun to your Maieſtie, or contentment to oure awin myndis; albeit, oure conſciences and actioun did beare ws recorde, that we ſerued with moſt faithfull affection and cairefull diligence. Bot now we haue to thank God that it is weill endit, and I moſt humblie to craue your Maieſties pardoun for my bauldneſs and ouer long letter, whilk ſalbe alwayes ſhort in comparifoun of my long and endless prayers to God, for your Maieſties honour, health, contentment, and long happie lyfe. At Lithgow, the xj January, 1606.

Your ſacred Maieſties moſt humbill and
faithfull Seruitour,

S^r. TH. HAMILTON.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

XX.—LORD FLEMYNG TO THE KING.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAIN,

I receauitt your Maiefties letter direct to me be the Bifhop of the Illis, bearing that fun reportis haue been maid of my ferouplous judgment in this intenditt erection of Bifchopis, and villing me to concur vith all my pouer in the furtherance of thatt feruice, as being maift neceffar for your Hienes obedience in this Kingdom, and the prefervation of the puritie of Religion in the fam: Vhairanent, pleafs your Sacred Maieftie, I am fo far from conceauing any ferouple in that or ony vther vork your Hienes is pleafit to intend, that once knowing the fam to be your Maiefties pleafour, I acquiefce, perfuading my felf it may be agriable boithe to godlines and equitie, for of your Hienes zeall to the aduancement of both ye haue all fuffieient experience; and gif any mak ferouple of your Maiefties proceedingis, thair fault, in my opinion, is nott to be excufit. I humbly thairfoir intreatt your Maieftie to conceatt of me as aue fubjecte refoluitt to ferue, and fallowe your Hienes in vhat-fumener I fall be commanditt, and vill than esteim my felf happie, vhan your Maieftie fall find me in ony fort vorthie of fauore or employment, vhairin vtheris may go beyond me in skill and habilitie, bott in affeccion I can nott cede to ony. Fearing to offend your Maieftie be longer letter, I remitt all vvhilk elfe I vald fay to the bearer his fufficiencie, whom I knau your Hienes vill credit; and non kifing your Maiefties handis, in humble forte, I tak my leane.

Your Maiefties moift humble and obedient
Subiect and Seruitor,

FLEMYNG.¹

To his moft excellent Majestie.

¹ Indorsed.—“ Lord Flemyng, xiiij Januarye 1606.” He was created Earl of Wigtoun on the 19th March following.

XXI.—SIR ALEXANDER STRATOUN OF LAURESTOUN TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it plaeis your most excellent Sacreid Maieftie : Immediatelic efter my heircunning, I fignified to fuche of the Bufhopis and veill affectit Commiffioneris as war heir prefent, your Maieftis guid, conftant, vyfe, lovyng Refolutione for the polityk fetling of thair Eftait in generall, withe the remembrans your Maieftie haid of ilk one in particular. How joyfull this was to thame, confideringe your Maieftis greit vexationis, your Maieftie, at mair lenthe, will knaw at thair nixt publick meiting, quhilk beis the tuentie aucht of this monethe. Speciallie your Maieftis defigne for Mr James Nicolfonis preferment, quhois princelie cair to that effect they and he befeichis your Maieftie to accept thair villing indevoiris, (fince all vnabill), they in leift miffour anfuerabill to your Maieftis mony faworis, humblie redubling thair greit applowis, your Maieftie hes takin for thair availl, for the fattling of Durim, in the Erchebufhoprik of York, (quhilk now is waikand),¹ and Brifto in Durim, be quhois nychtbourheid, as thair opiniois ar one, the moir eiffie heir your Maieftis ferveice fall be effectuat. Speciallie Brifto,² quha hes ewer kythe[d] ane extinguiſher of Papiftis and Puritanis. As also ane greit lower of ws all dwelland in this pairt of your Maieftis dominione. I reft attending your Maieftis ferveice, hoipand to difchairge my ſelff heirin as fall reſaiſſ' gratius acceptans be your Maieftie, wyffinge to your Maieftie ane long, happy, and proſperus reigne, humbly takis my lieve, Edinburgh, the xvij [Januar 1606.]³

Your Maieftis most humbill obedient
ſubie& and faithefull ferwitor,

To the Kingis most excellent
Sacred Maieftie.

LAURENSTOUNE.

¹ See foot note on the next page.

² Thornborough, Bishop of Bristol.

³ This date, left blank in the letter, is supplied from the indorsation.

XXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE KIRK TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it pleis your most excellent facreid Maiestie : We can nocht aneuche acknowledge our awin weaknes in lowe and thankfulnes (all that feis cleirly feind ilk moment of our lyff consecrated to your Maiesteis serweice may nocht answeir the leist of your Maiesteis faworis). Thocht, off graice, our wvprofitabill serweice is gratinfullie accepted, your Hynes cair, nocht only for ws all in generall, bot also for ilk ane in particular, affectionatlie sygneseit to ws be your Maiesteis Com-missioner, makis ws earnestlie to desyre that our abilitis war strenth-ened to secund our guid myndis, quhilkis we find fall nocht be a lytill be this your Hynes designe (quhilkis now occasione hes offerit to be accomplisid) in the preferment off Mr James Nicolsone to the Bischop-rik off Dunkell, quhilk we doutt nocht bot your Maiestie will se tymusslie perfytit. Be the quhilk, and the choise off theis tuo wther Bischoppis, we heir your Maiestie hes thocht meit to posses York and Duram,¹ in respect of the conformetie of dispoitionis, to rander in sum messour (nochtwithstanding of greit difficulteis) contentit serweice to your Maiestie. All the particularis to this serweice, since forder we now pre-sume nocht to sache your Maiestie, we remit to my Lord of Glaseo and Orknayis declaratioune ; bott speciallie to your Hynes Commissioner, the Laird off Lowrestoune, quhois fidelitie, diligence, constancie, in resisting thois wald withstand your Maiesteis designe, quhilkis nummer thocht they be mony, and that of the best fort, quhilkis now at his haime-cunning hes greitlie increst, since they can nocht terrifie him, seikis be all meinis to disgraice him. Bot the absolute confidence he hes ewer fund be your Maiesteis gratius allowance of his lytill indevoiris

¹ Upon the vacancy in the primacy of York, in 1606, Dr Tobias Matthew was translated from Durham, and Dr William James was appointed his successor. John Thornborough, Bishop of Bristol, so highly commended in the previous letter for his zeal "against Papists and Puritans," was the author of two tracts on the Union of the Two Kingdoms, in 1604. He was preferred from Bristol to the See of Worcester, in 1616.

fuallowis wþ all difficulteis, thoct muche he hes to do to wndergo thaim. Wiffing to your Maieftie ane long, happie, and prosperous reigne, we humblye takis our leiff. At Edinburgh, the tuantie nynte day of Januar 1606.

Your Maieftis moft humbill obedient
huiffing Subjectis and Serwitoris

AN. IYLIS.

MURRAYE.

GALLOWAY.

J. CALDCLEUCHE.

A. FORBES CATNES.

M. A. LAMB.

To the Kingis moft excellent
Sacred Maieftie.

XXIII.—MR JAMES NICOLSON, MINISTER OF MEIGLE, TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOURE MAIST EXCELLENT AND GRACIOUS MAJESTIE.

Albeit the reverence of youre Majefteis facred perfon hes at all tymes stayed me from prefuming to importune your Majestie by any meanes, and now principallie quhen in all places your Majesties name is fo highlie advanced as ane of maist rare exmples of God's bountifullnes: Yit the manifolde testimonicies of your Majesties undeserved favour baith binds and geves me bauldnes to present my humble and hartye thankis for all your Majesties benefites and guidnes sa gratioufflie witchaiffing, to remember and esteeme worthie of reward the unprofitable labouris of ane unworthie fervand, quho in na wayis can ever merite at your Maiefties hand, and yit is mair nor superfloufflie rewardit; for gif in me there be any thing quhairby I nicht be thought hable to do youre Majestie service agreable, quhat is it bot the least and meanest crummes of some of youre Majesties awin learned and wyfe discourfes, and the credite I have to serve thairby, bot the favour of your Majesties countenance; and heirunto it hes pleifit your Majestie to joyne ane honest moyen, quhairby I live through your Majesties liberalitie without the burdening of any, sa that my service can by na refon have this

ufe to procure a farther obligation of your Majesties guidwil, but onlie to tellie the thankfulnes of my affection for all youre Majesties gracious favouris, quhairof gif it please the Lord to affist me, I never mynd to be oblivious, nor to omit any point of service that may be acceptable to your Majestie, sa lang as God sal geve habilitie and lyfe, being acquentit with youre Majesties godly intentiones, as I have bene at all occasiones thir tynes bygane, be youre Majesties wyfe and trusty comfallour, my Lord of Balmerinoch, quihose guid advyses, I man profes, hes served alwayes to direct me in quhatsoever I have done richtlie in your Majesties service. Sa, with all humble affection, taking my leave of youre gracious Majestie, I pray God to blesse your Majestie with the continuall incres of all heavinlie graces and prosperitie.

Your Majesties affectionate and
continual Orator.

J. A. NICOLSON.

[6 February 1606.]

To the Kingis Maieftie.

XXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAINE,

It hes pleased your maist gracious Hienes, be your severall letters, geine me thanks for the performing of your Sacred Majesteis service at Lynlythquhow, and also for my goodwill to sett forward your Hienes maist worthie, wyfe, and royall deslinge in restitutionn of the Eltaitt of Bifchioppis.

What ewer I have done or may doe, I can nocht think my selfe bot

¹ Indorsed,—“ Mr James Nicolson, 6 Februarij, geues thanks to his Majestie for his Bishoprik.” The year in which this letter was written is not marked: but the two preceding letters allude distinctly to Nicolson’s proposed advancement to the See of Dunkeld, although his actual admission to the office may not have taken place till the beginning of 1607: the King having “ tymouslie perfytit” the arrangement with the titular Bishop.

ane onprofitable serwant, onhable to attayne in onye measure, to that dewtie your maist Gracious Hienes worthie, raire, excellent, and infinit vertues, or innumerable benefittes bestowed on me¹ bindis me to. Now that your Sacred Majesties favorable and gracious judgement sould accept that for effect of good service, that I attayne, in all humilitie and reuerence, to the acknaulegement of my dewtie, and that my goodwill and dew intention to doe what I maye or can in your Hienes service is interprett and accepted be the benignitie of your Hienes gracious minde, for accomplisshement and good payment, is mair favour and greater benefitt, nor my lyff, nor onye thinge that I am ewer hable to doe, can acqyite, I may weell in my thoghtis (and that same scantlie aneuche) rekkin or imagin, quhow far I am bund to goe in your Sacred Majesties service, and quhow to reverence and obey all your Hienes worthie and gracious commandementis. Bot to doe anye thinge worlthie off thankes, I acknowledge abowe my reatche, abowe my habilitie, and abowe my capacitie: That may proceed onlye from the fontaine off all my good fortunes, your maist gracious Majesties clemeneye, whilk onlye is hable to mak me baith to interpryse, and to doe in your Sacred Majesties service, mair nor my awin strenthe or habilitie, may extend to, and to doe be your Gracious Majesties ordonance, that whilk off my selfe I nather may nor can doe. Your maist gracious Hienes directionnes will mak all impossibilities possible, and all difficulteis easie and plaine. Thus praying the Eternall, lang to preserve your Sacred Majestie, and all your Royall progenie, in all felicitie, maist humble kneeling to your Sacred handes, I reffe,

Your Sacred Maiesties maist humbill and
obedient Subject and Seruitour,

Edinburght, 7^o Februarij 1606.

DUNFERMELING.

To the King his excellent Maiestie.

¹ Alexander Setoun, Lord Fyvie, President of the Court of Session, had recently been appointed Lord Chancellor of Scotland; and at this time had been raised to the higher dignity in the Peerage as Earl of Dunfermline.

XXV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO HIS MAJESTY
KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOVERAINE,

It may please your most excellent Maieftie: I haive feene your Maiefties directioun sent to the Earle of Dunbar anent Mr David Lyndfaye his intemperance in preachinge. I haive tane baldnes to give anfuer and avvfe in maist humble and submissfe maner. The man was input be your Maieftie vpon my rathe and oft repented fute.¹ He hes oft done veill aganes the feditious, albeit inconstantlie. The vordes that he spak, to my gryt greiff, war to reprehend your Maieftie for toleratioun and advancinge off Papiftes, quha ever foght your Maieftis wrak; and this was efter that I had congratulat to the peipill your Maieftis kaitt wonderfull delyverie. Efter fermon I conveyned the Baillies and Counsell, and sent thame to him, to querrell him for his vneverent ufage; quhilk wrocht this effect, that the daye followinge he preached ane Palinod, sa impudentlie flatteringe to your Maieftis praise, and vilipendinge all the Princes of Europe be name, in your Maieftis respect, that all men esteimed he was makand penance for the former dayes insolence with supererogatioun. Thus this foole is nocht worthie of your Maieftis wrahte; and as for me, I will nocht give advyse to honour siek ane with publict censure at sic ane tyme. I have advyfed with your Maieftis most trustie fervantis of our societie, quha thinkes meit to transport him, but noyce, to a Landwart kirk, and to assume to me ane mor vyfe and fast, quhilk your Maieftie fall see accomplished, but your Maieftis empeschement.

¹ After Mr Robert Wallace, the Second Minister of St Andrews, had been deposed by the King's order, Lindsay, as here stated, was admitted to that charge, 17th August 1597. But in consequence of the above remonstrance, he was translated to the landwart kirk, or adjoining parish of Forgan, or St Fillans. From thence he was brought to Leith, in 1609, as colleague to his aged namesake, David Lindsay, Bishop of Ross (who died in 1613). He was the author of "The Godly Man's Journey," printed at London, 1625; and continued as Minister of Leith, till his death in January 1627.

My Lord of Dunbar hes employed him self fa faythfullie, casaldlie, and fortunatlie in this lait service, that I presume to advyse your Maieftie to give him credit in your Maiefteis service, in our gryteft turne in this Parliament :¹ for quhatfumeuer is glanfede to your Maieftie in the contraire, is either *panici terrores* or prevaricatioun. Sir, I lacke moyen to do quhat I wald in your Maiefteis service. I heir daylie foule vanities, quhilkis I think I am called to repreffe. I want formall ryeht and rent. Supplie this, Sir, in this your approching Court, and than ye fall nocht neid to wreit hither, but the punished fall feik thither, toward your Maieftie, for obteneinge pardone. Finallie, your Maiefteis erandis, in the credit off the Earle of Dunbar, or of ane off lyk difpositioun, is heir possibill and easie. *Non debet sub tali tantoque Principe precarium esse Imperium.* Thus I humblie recommend your Maiefteis person and estait to God his mercifull providence. I remaine,

Your Maiefties maift humble Oratour
and obedient Servant,

SANCTANDROIS.

Edinburghe, nynt of Februar 1606.

To the Kings most excellent Maiefty.

XXVI.—THE SYNOD OF ABERDEEN TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

It may pleas yowr most Excellent Majestie : Wee your Majesties maift humbill subjeētis of the Synode of the Province of Abirdein, lamentabillie offeris to your Majestie the greiffis of the Kirk and all good men in owr boundis : quhilkis, except yowr Majestie provyde speedie remeid,

¹ That is, in the the prospect of carrying through the proposed Act "Anent the restitution of the Estate of Bischoppis," in the approaching Parliament, which was held at Perth on the 9th of July. The Earl of Montrose, however, was still continued as his Majesty's Commissioner.

baith Kirk and Commoneweill ar lieklye to fall in ane miferabill confuſione in thir North pairtis of yowr Majesties realme.

Firſt, That Mr Jhone Hammiltoun, Mr James Setone, Luis Gordone, and vtheris vncowth Preiſtis and Jefuitis vnder them, ar receat, and is hard faying Maſſe in Cathnes, Sudderland, and this Province, be great men, and vtheris vnder them; abuſing the Sacrament off Baptiſme to their infantis, ſparſling Hammiltonis blaſphemous new book amangſt them, and ſeducing them everie way, that ar ſimpill.

Secondlie, That the Lairdis of Giecht and Newtone, excommunicat Papiftis, cheiff mantenaris off theſe thingis, ar ſufferit, and no ordour tain with them.

Thirdlie, That quhen the Miniſtrie of the Synodis of Abirdein and Murray laboris, be the cenſuris of the Kirk, to reduce my Lord Marques off Huntlie and Earll of Erroll to the acknawleging off the trewth, and leaving off Papiftrie, they ar continuallie diſchargit be yowr Majesties letteris of horning.

Fowrtlie, That ane great number of Kirkis planted in this countrey ar leaſt altogidder deſolat, be the lang continewing in ward of their Paſtoris, ſeing the maiſt pairt of vther Kirkis ar vnplantit.

Fyftlie, Be this ocaſione the maiſt pairt of the reſt of the Miniſtrie ar contemptit and raylit vpon, and their doctrine not hard, and diſcipline mocked, and Jefuitis enteris in the Kirkis and parochinis wanting Paſtoris.

In Commoneweill.

Firſt, Monie deadlie feadis aryſin, amangſt Forbeſſis and Irwingis, Leſlyes and Leythis, quhilk ar lieklye, be thair pairties, to draw on the hail countrey to bloodie factiōnis.

Secondlie, That everie man that pleaſis, wearis gumis, piſtolis, rydis with jackis, ſpearis, and knopſknais, without controlment.

Befoiking heirfoir yowr Majettie, in all humilitie and reuerence, to caus and command the ſaidis enormities to be ſtayit, that yowr Majesties

good subjectis off thir partis may live in the fear and fervice of their God, and yowr Majesties obedience ; and fo the glorie of God and his trewth being reuerencit, yowr Majestie may procure the contynuanche of His blessing, and prosperows reigne, to your selff, and peace to your Majesties good subjectis ; and fo praying most earnestfullie for the fauen, wee tak owr leaue : from our Synod at Abirdein, the twentie day off Februar 1606 yeirs.

Your Majesties humbill fervitoris
and daylie Oratoris,

MR JO^N. STRATHAUCHAN,
Moderator to the Synode.
P. BLACKBURNE.
MR R. REID,
Scrybe to the Assemblie.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieitie.

XXVII.—THE BISHOP OF ROSS TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAIESTIE,

Being informit of sume reports writtin to your Maieitie off me, and heiring the treuth of the same be my Lord of Dumbar, I thought my dewtie was, albeit I haue writtin to dyverse vthers, to informe your Maieitie be my awin letter. I trust I am the Minister lewing in Scotland that first your Maieitie was acquaintit with,¹ and fence that tyme how cairfull I haue bene to ferwe your Maieitie, and to do all dewties that lay in my power, I refer to your Maiesties consideratioun. I wald

¹ At the first nomination of Presbyterian Ministers to particular charges, by the Committee of Parliament, in July 1560, Mr David Lyndesay was appointed to Leith. Forty years later, in November 1600, he was one of three Presbyterian ministers on whom King James conferred the title of Bishop, with the privilege to sit and vote in Parliament.

haue bene werie laith now, in my auld days, to haue brokin, and specialie being provookit be your Maiesties gryt fawour, to haue becunit wnthankfull. I refer to the hail Counfall convenit in Sanct Jhonstionne, quhat trawell I tuik with the Ministers that was sumound to that dyet to gang fra thair Declynatur; as also that meiting of Aberdeine, and how, of the fewinteine that war sumound, I perfwaidit ten to subferywe obidience;¹ as also how eirnist I was at Edinbrugh, quhair Maister Jolue Forbus compeirit and his brethren, to haue had tham satisfiing your Maiestie, schawing the gryt offence your Heines had confawit of thair doingis, and specialie the wilfull menteining of the same; as also quhat hurte it brought on the Kirk and on thair flocks, quha war defitit of preiching; by thair awin perticular hurts. Surlie it never come in my mynd outhir to menteime the meiting of Aberdeine or yit thair Declynatur. I trust my Lord of Dumbar can declair quhat he hes hard of this mater, and giue ony of the Counfall wes abill to burthing me with it. I houpe, be the grace of God, to end ane honest and faythfull subiect with your Maiestie, or else I wald my days war cutit af. It fall not be the secrete surmeiffes that fall alter my hairt fra your Heines gud obidience; alwayse I refer to your Maiesties awin discretioun to pounder the intentionns of sic deilers, quha, quhen they can not get just accusatiouns, invents sic purpoiffes, not simplie aganis me, but rather aganis that Estait.² Lewing to trubill your Maiestie with any farder discours, and crawing ane long and prosperous reigne to your Heines and posteritie, commits your Maiestie to the proteccioun of God, with my daylie prayer for your Heines preferwatioun from the handis of all your enimies. Frome Leith this fewint of Marche [1606].

Your Maiesties maist humble Subiect,

Ross.

To the Kings most excelent
Maiestie.

¹ See *supra*, p. 29.

² The Estate of Bishops.

XXVIII.—MR JOHN JOHNSTON, PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, TO KING JAMES.

IT is not unknawen to your Maift Excellent Majestie what haue bene my endewouris and trauaills in aduancing the Colledge leving, wherevpon my Collegues haue aduancit them selfs with latle or no regard to me ; In respect whereof, with consideration of my gude affection and trauels, approued be your Majestie, in setting furth the memories of your Majesties maift noble progenitoris,¹ it may please your Highnes to putt your Royall hand to this my present sute, to encourage me in my calling, and for releif of my houshold and famelie, and heirby to remember your maift excellent Majestie in my humble prayers for your Hienes long and prosperous Regne. Diminow, the xiiij of March 1606.

Your maift excellent Majesties
most humble Orator,

MR JHONE JOHNSTON.

To his maift excellent Majestie.

XXIX.—THE BISHOPS OF ST ANDREWS, GALLOWAY, AND CAITHNESS,
TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

May it pleis your Majestie : hauing felt be experience that thir ialousies betuyx us and the Confallours haue bein uerie prejudiciall to

¹ One of the works published by Johnston, and evidently that to which he alludes, was his volume of Latin verses, commemorating the Kings of Scotland in succession, from Fergus the First to James the Sixth, entitled “*Inscriptiones Historicae Regum Scottorum.*” It was printed at Amsterdam, 1602, 4to, and contains a series of ten engraved portraits of the Royal family of the Stewarts.

your Hienes seruice, and furnisheid mater to the seditius bothe in the Kirk and Police, to hald forduard thair myscheuous attemptatis for disquyiting bothe the parteis, quhois sead, as thay fostered, so thay fought the wrak of bothe, we thought fitteft to redintegrat olde freindseheip, and to remove all occasiouns of suspiciounne: *amici noni non sunt veteribus ante ponendi*. And it is found, that as in a naturall bodie, so in a politick, *consueti infuetis meliora licet deteriora*; wpon which ground, conferene is drauen on betuyx us and my Lord Prefident, this Freday, the fourtein of this instant, quhairin we haue mad[e] discouerie eache to others of the sinister suggestiouns, calumnies, and causes of misconstructionne, quharby, with too great credulitie on bothe sydes, we haue beine distracted: that mater is fullie quyeted nithe great contentment and mutuall satisfactiounne, quhill we espy quhat hinderance to your Hienes seruiceis this breache hes wrocht, and how effectuall a meane our reioyning shall be for the unresistable prosequitiounne of all your Majesties princelie designs. The troublers wold neuer haue presumed to suche licentiousnes, ather aganft the State or our persones, if thai had not fancied, that in anoying us thai pleased the Statesmen; bot, be God his grace, thai salbe catched in thair anine snares. Your Majesties Confallours, Civill and Ecclesiastick, fall sing, *Ecce quam bonum, et quam jucundum, &c.* We desyre to surwive thois broils, that, be our loyall seruice, we may, according to our places, exoner your Majestie of theis wuseining factheries, and in sume measure acquyt your Majesties constant and undiserued affectionne to our Estat and persones. Refering forder to the trust off your Majesties faithfull seruant Laurenstoune, we humble besek God [for] your Majesties grace and hapines.

Your Majesteis most humble seruitores
and daylie Oratours

SANCTANDROIS.

GALLOWAY.

A. FORBES, CATNES.

Edinburghe, 15 Marche 1606.

To the Kinge his most excellent Majestie.

XXX.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOVERANE,

It may pleas your moſte Excellent Maieſtie: We have taken baldnes to be humble ſuiters to your Hienes for the Widow and Sonne of vnquihle John Durie, miniſter at Montroſs,¹ quha in his lyfityme was a moſte devoted ſervant and oratour to your Maieſtie: his Sonne is a guid miniſter and ane honeſt ſubieēt, and frack in thais your Maieſteis ſer-viceis. The ſuite is a confirmatioun in this Parliament of ane ſmall penſioun granted be your Maieſtie, and ratified of befoir in Parliament, quherof thay have bene continewallie and ar in poſſeſſioun. Your Maieſteis princelie inclinatioun to religious pitie, and to remembrance of your ſmalleſt weill-harted ſervantis, geweis ws eſperance of pardoun for this our hardiment, and of ſpeid in this our maift humble mediatioun. Thus the Eternall preferve your Maieſteis royall perfone and eſtate in all grace and happienes, we abyde,

Your Maieſteis moſte humble ſubieētis
and affectionat Oratouris,

AN. IYLES.

SANCTANDROIS.

JA. ORKNAY.

GLASGO.

ALEX^R. CATNES.

GALLOWAY.

Edinburgh, 17 Maij 1606.

To the King his moift excellent Maieſtie.

¹ John Durie was appointed one of the ministers of Edinburgh by the General Assembly, in August 1573. In 1584, he was deprived of his charge by the King, and confined to Montrose, where he afterwards became minister. The grant of an annual pension of seven score pounds Scots to him, his wife, and Mr Josua Durie their son, or to the longest liver, out of the feu-mails of the Lordship of Altrie (in Aberdeenshire), on the 7th August 1590, was confirmed by Parliament, 5th June 1592, and shows that he had

XXXI.—KING JAMES TO MR WILLIAM SCOTT, MINISTER OF CUPAR.

JAMES R.

Truffly and welbeloned, Wee greete yow well. Our earnest desire to enterteyne that happie peace in the Church of our Kingdome of Scotland, which, with great care and trauell, wee left vniuerfallie established therein at our remouing hether, hauing since bene manifested by our letters to the moste parte of the Synodes of that realme, and to diuers our Commissioners, by missines and instructions, afwell verball as in writing, and more perfectlie ratified by letters written to our Counsell with our owne hande, propoting most cleare testimonyes of the constancy of our loue to all well affected members of that body; which, by Proclamations and imprinted Declarations, was likewyse so solemnly published, as the notoriety thereof could be vnknowne to none but such as, through wilfull fencelesines, wolde neyther heare nor see. Hauing, neuertheles, so litle praualed with some incredulous, wilfull, ingrate, and maliciously disposed persons, as some of them haue not forborne rashly to contemne and disobey our auctority, charges, and commandements, and so stubburnly to persiste in their contunacy, as their malicious obstinacy hath forced vs to intende greater rigor against them then our inclination allowes, yet far les then their offences did deserue: And others

succeeded in regaining the King's favour. The Act professes that it was conferred by the King in reward for "the greit, lang, and earnest travellis and labouris sustenit be his lovit oratorour JOHNNE DURIE, minister of Goddis word at Montrois, in the trew preaching of Goddis word, besydes the greit chargis and expenssis made be him thir mony yeiris bygane in auanceing the publick edayris of the Kirk: and thairwith all remembering the greit houshold and famelic of barnis quhairwith he is burdynnit," &c.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iii. p. 551.)

John Durie died at Montrose, 25th February 1600. It was in reference to the continuance of his pension that the above petition of the Bishops was made, and which seems to have had the effect of securing its renewal, by a new Act, on the 9th July 1606.—(*Ib.* vol. iv. p. 311.) Apparently after the death of Durie's widow, this grant was again ratified in favour of Mr Josua Durie, then minister of St Andrews, Eupheme McKane his spouse, and John Durie their son, 23d October 1612.—(*Ib.* p. 501.)

haue præsumed, in pulpitt, foolifhlie to iustifie the obstinate and malicious proceedinges of their brethrene, and therewith to flander our iuste commandements and lawfull proceedinges of our Counsell: As also, the Synodes being required, by our letters and Commiffioners directed to them, to prouide for their owne partes, so far as in them lay, to giue vs assurance that certeyne Actes establihed in former Assemblies, necessary for the peace and well of the Church, particularely exprest in our Instruções sent to them, might be ordeyned by them not to be propounded, treated, or altered at the next Generall Assembly, which wee know to be more fitte to be vntouched and ouer-past at the same, than that any mentioun shoulde ther be made of them, leaft thereby occasion should arise of distraction in the Church, and offence to ourselues: Yet they so litle regarded the earnestnes of our request, as their answers vniuerfally tended to a present delay, without any assurance to vs of their performing at the Assembly of that which, for their owne well, Wee so earnestlie vrged; wherein finding a more generall opposition to our iust petition then Wee could euer haue expected in any such case, these thinges, and other weighty reasons, haue moued vs hereby to wille and commande yow, all excuses sette aside, not to faile with diligence to repaire towardes vs before the fyfteenth day of September nexte, to the intent Wee may that day begin with your selfe, and such others of your Brethrene as Wee haue knowne to be of good learning, iudgement, and experience, and commanded likewise to be here at that same tyme, to treat with yow in maters concerning the peace of our said Church of Scotland, and make our constant and vchangeable fauour, borne to all the dewtyfull members of that body, manifestlie knowne to yow, whereby yee may be bounde, in dewty and conscience, to conforme your selfe to our Godly meaning, and to beare trew witnessing for iustifying the lawfulness of all our intentions and actions, aswell concerning the whole Church as the particulare members thereof. And that it may be manifest to all the world that Wee, hauing embased our selfe for giuing satisfaction to all that profession farther then other Princes accompte befeeming their estate, if thereafter any turbulent spirittes be not thereby recalled to their dewty, but persiste maliciouflic in vndewtifull contempte of vs, it may then worthyly be iudged that the seuerity which, by their

obstinaey, Wee may be forced to vse, shall rather be violentlie extorted (againste our nature) for their amendement, then willinglie inflicted for their ouerthrow. Thus hoping yee will not faile p̄ciefely to keepe the appoynted day, as yee tender our seruice and the welfare of the Church, Wee bid yow farewell. At our Mannour of Greenwich, the xxj of May.

To our trusty and welbeloued Mr Williame
Scotte, minister of Godis worde at Cupar.

[*Note, added in the handwriting of Scott.*]—I receavit this letter from aue boy, Wm. Craufurd, on Witfoundaye, at outcoming of the kirk, 1606.

XXXII.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR TO KING JAMES.

MAIST SACRED SOVERAINE,

I craue your Majesties favour that it may be lesome to me giff entrie to this letter, with some report of the Antiquitie. I think, to a man that hes deliyted all his dayes in letters, vryting to the maist learned and wyse King in the world, it can nocht be imputt to great amillē, albeit some memoire off learning be intermixed thairin. I reid that Marcus Scaurus, a man of great renome amongis the Romanes *florente Republica*, being accused be Quintus Varius of a werie odious cryme, that he sould haif reffused money, fra the King Mithridates, for to betraye the affaires of Rome: Efter his acenfar had deduced all argumentis and probationnes he could dewife, he used naa other defence but this, *Quintus Varius ait, Marcum Scaurum regia pecunia corruptum Rempublicam prodere voluisse: Marcus Scaurus huic culpae se affinem esse negat: Utri magis credendum putatis?*¹ Whilk defence was followed with the acclamation of the haill peple, condemning the acenfar as a calumniator and a lyar. and acknauldging the defendars vndouted vertew and honestie.

¹ The Lord Chancellor evidently refers to a passage in Valerius Maximus, without quoting the precise words. Lib. iii., cap. vii., 8.

Maister Jhone Forbes, a condemned traitour for his rebellious and feditious conventieles, haldin as Generall Affsemblies, againes your Majesties autoritie and command, accuses your Majesties Chancellar to haiff gevin adwise, counfall, or consent, to the halding of the said mutinous Affsemblies: Your Majesties Chancellar sayes, It is a manifest lye; and giff it might stand with his honour, and dignitie off his place, to enter in contestatioun with sic a condemned traitour, could cleirlye verifie the same. Mr Jhone Forbes and all his colleiggis abyddis still at the maintenance and justificatioun of that thair Affembly, as a godlye and lawfull proceeding: Your Majesties Chancellar. by his publick letters, dischargit and contramandit the said Affembly; he hes sensyne condemned the said Affembly, as a feditious and onlawful deid, and all the pertakers and mantenars of the same as mutin[ou]s and feditious perfonas. Your Sacred Majestie hes to judge, whilk of thir twa is maist worthie of credeit. Farther, I think not neidfull to impefche your Majestie in this mater: bot some informatioun I haiff fend to Maister Alexander Haye, whilk it may pleas your Hienes to accept, and heir off, when best lafouir fra mair wegthie affaires may permitt the same. Swa, maist humble taking my leiff, and praying the Eternal God lang to preferue your Majestie in all felicitie, I rest,

Your Sacred Majesties maist humble and
obedient subject and servitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 25 Maij 1606.

To the King his most excellent Majestie.

XXXIII.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR TO KING JAMES.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I doubt nocht bot your Maieftie hes reffawed befor now, full information from the Noblemen it pleased your Hienes appoynt to tak

cognitioun of Mr Jhone Forbes¹ his speitches, and what verificatioun or aperance he could geiff of the fame, off the successe of that mater, and off all that he hes deduced, wherein I newer maid anye oppositioun, bot was willing thay fould admitt and heare onye probatioun he wald use, afföring my selff, giff thay war trew and honest men, thay wald newer saye anye sic thing: And giff thay war otherwayes, lipning also that thair awin sayinges and forme of proceeding in the mater wald discower thair malicious myndes and fals desseynges. I knew my selff foe cleir of that imputatioun, as I could not apprehend anye parrell, whafoewer war ather judge or witness; bot was desirous to haue the bottome off Mr Jhone Forbes his desseynges and ploittes ryped out,² that your Maiestie might parfawe what war thairin; for of this I doubt nocht but your maist Gracious Hienes great wisdome will judge and foirsee, what hes bene findrie mennis myndes and meining. For my selff, albeit I haue ewer had a werie earnest desyre to ferve and follow all your Maiesties maist noble and worthy desseynges, I know I was newer foe cairfull to haiff your Maiestie serwed to all contentment, in onye other thing, as I was in

¹ These letters from the Privy Council to the King on "this busynes of Mr Johnne Forbes," dated 14th June, are printed in "The Melros Papers," vol. i. pp. 13-15.

Sir James Balfour, referring to the subject in dispute, says:—"In this same month of Junij, Mr Johne Forbes, quho had traduced the Lord Chanceler Dumfermling, as one that had approved the lait Assembly halden by the ministers at Aberdeine, quher at the King was heighly offendit. The Lord Chanceler denies it altogether, as ane unjust calumny laid on him, and humbly, by his letters, intreattes his Majestie that it might be put to a trial; for which the King writes to the Council. They ceit Mr Johne; he, to verifie his assertioun, produces as witness, Mr Walter Baleanquell, and Mr James Balfour, ministers, and the Laird of Leyes, Burnett; quho all of them being examined, cleired the Lord Chanceler of that aspersion, as the Lords of Privy Council, with their depositions sent to his Majestie, did write of the date the 14th of Junij 1606."—(Annals, vol. ii. p. 15.)

² Forbes's own account of the matter is contained in his work, recently printed by the Wodrow Society, under the title, "Certaine Records touching the Estate of the Kirk, in the years 1605 and 1606."—Edinburgh, 1846, 8vo. In the MS. copies, he has unfortunately omitted to insert his own letters; but he gives one from the Privy Council addressed to himself on the 23d May 1606, which gives directions for his transporting from Blackness to Edinburgh, "with one or two of your brethren whom ye think meet to accompany you, for cleiring of this mater concerning the Chanceler."—(P. 541.)

that partiular in staying off the Aſſembly at Aberdene, becaus it was foe hielie recommendit unto me be your Sacred Maieſtie. Soe leiſing to your maift gracious Hienes conſideratioun and grave cenſure, what hes bene evirie mannis part in this caus, hoping that your Maieſtie will ewer interpreyte my trew and honeſt meaning in your accuſtomat, albeit ondeferwed favour; maift humblie taking my leve, and praying the Eternall lang to preferwe your Maieſtie in all proſperitie, I reſt,

Your ſacred Maieſties maift humbill and
obedient ſubject and ſeruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 16 Junij 1606.¹

To the King his moſt Excellent Maieſtie.

XXXIV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF SANCTANDROIS TO KING JAMES.

MOIST SACRED SOVERANE,

It may pleis your moſt excellent Maieſtie: Albeit the beirar heirof Mr Patrik Lyndefay,¹ and Mr Arthour Fethie,² for quhome he alſo takis dealing, have, be thair honeſt and loyall ſervice to your Hienes, obteneed ſuche guid lyking and acceptance of your Maieſtie, as thay neid nocht the recommendatioun of anie, yeatt I have taine bauldnes to geve my teſtificat of thair conſtant and vnaltered profeſſioun of all your Maieſties ſervices in ſemblable maner as thay did quhen we had the fruitioun of your Maieſties moift comfortabill preſence. Manie dois eye ſervice, bot theſe be affectioned and ſtout ſouldieris, and ſuche as ar requiſit for the Metropolitane of North-Britane, quha can nocht felt but ane bak, as your Maieſtie knawis. The meane fuitt thay ar to propone to your Hienes will be ane encouragement to con-

¹ Mr Patrick Lindesay was miniſter of St Vigeans, the Pariſh Church of the Abbey of Arbroath, in Forfarſhire. In 1613, his zeal was rewarded by his being advanced to the vacant See of Roſs, upon the death of Mr David Lindesay, miniſter of Leith.

² Or Futhie: he was Miniſter of Inverkeillour.

tinew thame in thair wonted fidelitye and forwardnes, rather than the iust value of thair service. I will nocht empesche your Majestie with the repetitioun of these instructiounis anent the commonn service, committing the same to your Majesties royall sollicitude, and to my Lord of Glasgou his sufficiencie. Onlie this, if anie, be importunitie, have purchesed reservatiounis, quhairby your Majesties princelie desigine wilbe stained, and we maid rather notionall than reall Bishops, that itt wald pleas your Majestie to discharge the same, for it will be needles to buy this work from anie mo. All are reddie to obtemper your Majesties directioun in this behalf quha ar of anie moment. Mr Andro Melvine¹ hath begun to rais new formes with his Æolick blastis. Sir, ye ar my Jupiter, and I, vnder your Hienes, Neptune. I must say,

Non illi imperium pelagi, sacrumque tridentem,
Sed mihi sorte datum.

Your Majestie will relegate him to sum Æolia,

— ut illic vacua se jactet in aula.

Thus the Eternal preferve your Majesties moift Royall persone and estait for ever. I remaine,

Your Majesties moift humble Servitour,

Edinburgh, 19 Junij [1606¹].

SANCTANDROIS.

XXXV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE,

I have receyved from the Lord Archbishop of St Andrewes, Mr Andrew Lambie, and Mr Ja. Nicholson, especiall commendation of this bearer, Mr Patrike Lindsay; and vpon that occasion having had some

¹ The year, omitted in the letter itself, is marked on the back; but the reference to Andrew Melville would be sufficient to fix the date. He was one of the eight ministers to whom missives, similar to that at page 48, were addressed in May 1606, summoning them to a conference in the King's presence, in September following; and it is well known that Melville was never allowed to revisit Scotland.

ſpeeche with him, I do find him of good partis and difcretion, ſo farr as vpon ſo ſmale occation and experience, I can iudge. It ſemeth that your Maieſtie is abowt to aſſure the Abbay of Arbrothe vnto a certayne Noble man,¹ which I cold haue wiſhed with all my harte might haue bene annexed to ſome of your Maieſties poere Biſshoprickes, the nature of thoſe kinde of livinges conſidered. At the leaſt, finding that your Maieſtie hath a verie good opinion of Mr Lindſey, I do moſt humbly beſeeche your Highnes not only to reſerue owt of your graunte of the ſaid Abbay, Mr Andrewe Lambes penſion which he hath already, but likewiſe that your Maieſtie wold be pleaſed to allowe Mr Lindſaye ſuch a penſion owt of the ſame, as I perceyue he doth deſerve, the oportunitie now offred being ſo fitt for your Maieſtie to embrace, and whereby yow may *vna fidelia tres parietes dealbare*. The Noble man, in my opinion, can not thinke muche if your Maieſtie pay theſe towre ſo worthy perſons with ſome litle coyne, which hath yet vpon it ſome blemiſhed ſtampe of Eccleſiaſticall memorie. Alſo, I beſeeche your Maieſtie to be good to your Archbiſhop of St Andros, that ſuch as haue ſome reſervations owt of that Biſshoprike may content them ſelves with the aſſurancie of them which they haue already; and that the Parliament may not make them better then they are. But if I miſtake any thing in this or in any parte of the premiſſes, I do moſt humbly crave pardon, not dowbting, but that Mr Lindſay will better informe your Maieſtie. My deſire to perſorme any ſervice to that your Church of Scotland, and to theſe godly and worthis perſons, maketh me to preſume thus farr; and ſo I ceaſe to trouble your Maieſtie any further. [The] Almighty graunt to [your] Maieſtie long life and happines both here and for ever. At Lambeth, the 26 of June 1606.

Your Maieſties moſt dutifull Chapleyn.

To the Kings moſt excellent Maieſtie.

R. CANT.²

¹ The Marquis of Hamilton. See Lindesay's letter, page 57.

² Indorsed,—“R. B. [Dr Richard Bancroft], Canterbury, to the King, in favores of Mr P. Lindſay, *now of Glasgowe*, and deſyryng the Abbay of Arbrothok to be annexed to ſum poor Biſhoprik in Scotland. 26 of Jun. 1606.” From this note, we may infer, as Lindesay was not translated to Glasgow until 1633, that the original letters were not indorsed till the reign of Charles the Firſt.

XXXVI.—THE EARL OF MONTROIS TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

Amongis great multetudis, oft tymes it hes bein sein, sum confu-
sion, and men of euill dispositioun verrie buffie to catfche, or at the least
empasche, the good erand. Bot as euerie wark hes the awin blissing, so
doith it go fordwart. And albeit this last actioun of your Heighnes last
Parliament, sum litle broyle was maid in the beginning thairof, nochtwith-
standing strait proclamatiounes being maid. The Nobilitie being sua weill
enclynit to pace and your Majesteis obedience, that it maid ceas (prafit
be vnto God) without litle harme. Yit, suppois men did not altogether
kythe thame selfis, greit number of hid impediments did murmur. Sua
that as our obedience, deutie, and loue towardis your Majesteis materis
hes procedit sua weill hithertillis, boith concerning your Majesteis pre-
rogative, the stat of Bischops, the brek of the act of Annexatioun, and
the grant of ane Taxatioun, whiche thingis war done with grit applause
and contentment. As for my awin actioun and good will to forder these
your Heighnes seruices, I remit thame to the declaratioun of wtheris. Bot
one thing I dar say, and will tak vpon me, that if any Prince may be
entraietit to loue ane subject, your Heighnes good caus hes to wey your
Majesties counfallour the Erll of Dumbar in the ballence of ane maist
faithfull subject and vigilant seruant, who hethe done good seruice since his
last hamecuming, boith in the Bordours and now in this Stait, sua far as
is procedit. And thir thingis, my sweit Soueragune, I am bold to truble
your evis be this paper, whiche being onlie mouit with the loue I carie
to your Heighnes seruice, and, what I may, reddie fall I be to the end
of my lyff. Retting in all humble maner, I tak my leive be kissing your
Heighnes sacred handis, shall remane,

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient
subject and seruitour to deathe,

Pertie, the 7 of Julij 1606.

MONTROISS.

To his Royall Maieitie.

XXXVII.—MR PATRICK LINDESAY, MINISTER OF ST VIGEANS, TO
KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIUS AND DEIR SOUERAN,

It may pleis yowr Hienes, I heiff takin the boldnes be thir feve lynes to fignific to yowr Majestie, that althoche yowr Hienes did wreit werie earneftlie wnto the Marquis of Hamyltounne, defyring hym, as he wold gif proof off thankfulnes for that gryt Lordfchip and leeving of Arbrotie, frielie graunted wnto hym be yowr Majestie, to suffer willinglie my litill peece land, with the fermes and duties thairoff, to be referued furthe off his Ereccionne, according to yowr Hienes warrand gratiufly graunted wnto me thairwponne, for the quhilk I render mony hwmbill and hairtie thankis; yitt newertheles the Marques hes fa [little] regairded yowr Majesties defyr theranent, that he wold nather obey the famyn, nor yit wold he and his freindis and fauoreris fuffier yowr Hienes warrand to be read nor woted, nather be the Lordis off the Artielis, nor in publict Parliament, bot hes obtenit his Ereccionne without ony referuatioune. Aganis the quhilk, for the reuerence I did bear to yowr Majesties warrand and commiffiounne fend to the Parliament in my fauoris, and confidering that ane thankfull hairt could nocht weill obfeur your Hienes benefeit and liberalitie, I heiff maid publict proteftatioune, protefting the famyn to be null, in refpect the Estaitis nicht nocht difpone nor erect any part off yowr Hienes patrimonie aganis yowr Majesties direct warrand and commiffiounne. Boithe befor and efter the Parliament, I euer did offer to be fimplie submitted to my Lord off Dunbar, and to wnderly his judgment in quhatfoeuer his Lordfchip pleifit preferyve to me, in refpect his Lordfchip did know yowr Hienes will mor particularlie in that earand nor any other; bot the Marquis wold nocht be submitted wnto hym. It is true in deid I did refufe to refer my felf ather to the Marquis his will, or to his freindis, as I wes defyred be fome, efter the exampill off my college Mr Arthour Fythie, pairtly in refpect I heiff had no freindfchip nor fauor of thatt Howfe thir fex yeiris, and fa could nocht expect meafour or rafone to be giffin wnto me; as alfo, I thoct it nocht my dutie to refer your Majesties gift and liberalitie to be controllit be the will off hym from quhom your Hienes moft iustlie hes and may referue the

famyn; for the quhilk I wes fund fault with be some: bot heiranent, I simple submitt my self to your Majesties censur, and lookes that your Hienes, according to your Majesties princelie and accustomed constancie, shallbe pleased to gif warrand for perlyting that benefite and gift onis begun, for the quhilk I did run post fa mony myllis with laforit off my healtbe, and to my gryt chaarges, quhilk may werie facillie be doone, for all yitt is in your Majesties handis, in respect by this Parliament the Abacie of Abirbrothe is dissolved only from the Act off Anexatione, to the end the famyn may be disposed to hym be your Hienes, sa that your Majesties warrand to the Collector and Keparis off the Signet and Sealis to stay passing off any signator or infestment gifin, or to be gifin, to the Marqueis untill the tym that he mak me sufficientlie to be securit of that litill peece land, according to your Majesties former warrandis, will yit do my turne. As for this warrand, Mr Allexander Hay will present the famyn to be subferyvit be your Hienes. Althocht your Majestie sould be moued be the Marqueis and his freindis importunitie ather to draw bak this benefite onis begun and disponit to me, or to stay from perlyting of the famyn, as sayd is. (quhilk I look nocht for, nather shall ewer merit), I may weill thairby be maid the mor onhabill to do thois services and good offices to your Hienes, that I boithe can and bearis good will and inteir affectione to do, bot therby shall newer be maid the mor vnwilling, bot schall ever bend my wittis and endeuoris to gif aequall proof off thankfulness with thois quhois lot hes bein mor fortunat in preventing me, at your Majesties liberall handis. The Erle off Dunbar did his diligence in presenting to the Lordis of the Artielis your Hienes warrand and directiones in my fauoris, bot the famyn wer nather read nor pwtt to woting. Thus, hwnble crasing pardonne for this my hwnblines in wreting to your Majestie, and most hwnble taking my leif by killing your Majesties handis, committis your Hienes to Godis blessed protectione.

Your Hienes most hwnbill and
obedient subject and Orator,

St Honfhoume the 12 of Julij 1606.

M. P. LINDESAY.

To the Kyng his most gratius and
excellent Majestie.

XXXVIII.—A REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BETWIXT HIS MAJESTY
AND THE MINISTERS OF SCOTLAND, HOLDEN AT HAMPTON COURT,
22 OF SEPTEMBER 1606.

[This Report was evidently written by a person attached to the Court who was present at the Conference, and was favourably inclined to the Presbyterian ministers. The name of the writer has not been stated; but we may venture to attribute it either to Sir David Murray or Sir James Sempill. The words printed in italics are deleted in the original, apparently to be replaced by the marginal notes.¹]

The Ministers of Scotland, to wit, Mr Andro Melvill, Mr James Melvill, Mr James Balfour, &c., being sent for by his Majesty's letter, against the 15 September, came to the Cittie of London the 2 or 3 of that moneth; where they stayed till the appointed day, at which time they sent one of their company, to wit, Mr William Scot, with Mr Alexander Hay, to learne if it was his Majesty's pleasure they should keep the said 15th day; who (because the Nobilitie, Bishops, and Commissioners expected were not all come) appointed them to stay till the Satterday the 20th of that instant. They, on the Fredday, 19th September, passed to Kingfton, by water, where they lodged, being a mile from Hampton Court; and, on the morrow, to Hampton, where they met with his Majesty, (the Bishops and Commissioners having accessè the Weddinsday before), and after they had all a kisse of his hand, he talked a little with them in fair generall speeches, thereafter dismissed them: who, as they were returning from Hampton to Kingfton, *were, in his Majesty's name, by Alexander Hay,* desired to be at sermon to-morrow following, the 21 of September.

The Dean of Westminster sent to Mr John Gordon, Dean of Salisbury, to desire them.

After their cumming to church, a seat was prepared for them hard by the pulpit, where Dr Barlo, Bishop of Rochester, made the sermon, on Act. 20. 28. *Attendite vobis et toti gregi in quo constituit vos Spiritus sanctus Episcopus:* which words he vrged for Bishops, Archbishops, &c.,

The original is preserved in a volume of Manuscript collections (Wodr. MSS., Folio vol. XLII.) which belonged to Calderwood, who has incorporated the greater part of this Report in his History, with occasional additions from some other source.

their jurisdiction and superiority over the other Ministrie; much abusing Fathers, perverting Scripture, and delivering many points of Popish doctrine. Sermon ended, they were invited to dinner, and by one in his Majesties name entertained at Court. In the after noone, there being no sermon, they returned back to Kingstone.

On Monday, in the morning, they were desired by Mr Alexander Hay to come after dinner to speeke with his Majesty; who comming, were admitted to his Majesty, who came, accompanied to the [privie] chamber *of presence*, with the Earle of Argyle, Dumbar, Orkney, Fleming, Lowreston, Sir Thomas Hammilton his Majesties A^ctorney, &c., with ¹ Mr John Spotswood the Bishop of Glasco, Mr G. Gladstones Bishop of St Androis, Mr James Law Bishop of Orkney, Mr James Nicolson, Mr Robert Howy, Mr Patrick Scharp, Mr Andro Lamb; so that none els were present that day, save only Dr Montiqui [Montague], Deane of his Majesties Chappel, who kept the doore. At which tyme the King made an eloquent speech, tending to this or the like purpose; shewing, That whereas he had left the Church of Scotland in great peace at his departure, being now desirous to have the same continued, he had sent for them to know of the particular disturbances thereof which lately had therein arisen, and to heare their advise and counsel how the same might be composed and mitigat; shewing also how happily this Church of England was established vnder the government of Bishops. In end, he drew to two particulars, to wit, 1^o. To demand, what they thought of that Conventicle (for so continually he called it) at Aberdeen, and whether they would condemne the same or not? 2^o. What overtouris they would give ² to pacifie things. Then he began to shew the unlawfulness of that Assembly (Conventicle) by severall circumstances, as 1^o. By the paucitie of the Brethren there convened without any warrant; 2^o. The absence of the Moderator and Clerk of the former Assembly; 3^o. Their unrordourly proceeding without a sermon; 4^o. The charge given the night before discharging them to meet on the morrow, &c.

To all which objections, To which two questions Mr James Melvill (being appointed common mouth by the rest, because of his gravitie, wisdom, and grace which he had with his Majesty, for avoyding of all confusion, and staying of offensive speeches) answered, That seeing they

¹ President, and the rest of the Scottish Councell for the tyme.

² To be observable and ordinarily Assemblies to be kept.

had come only upon his Majesty's letter, not knowing what his Majesty was to propose to them, and seeing these two questions were weighty, and required great deliberation, they could not give a present answer, and therefore requested his Majesty that they might have a time to advise, to the end they might give his Majesty a direct answer. Whereupon his Majesty granted them that night, till the morrow in the afternoon, to consult together, *to the end they might give his Majesty a convenient answer touching both the said points.* In the meantime, the said Mr James answered his Majesty's objections, particularly to the first, affirming, That in an Assembly of the servants of Christ, whereof the number is not prescribed by a law, it is not lawful to any to disallow thereof for the number, being 2 or 3, convened in the name of Jesus, which are the smallest number, have the promise of his presence, who is their Lord and Ruler of them; besides, rareness makes not unlawfulness, in an ordinary meeting established by law and practice; lastly, all that was done might lawfully have been done by a few number, authorized with commission as they were, for continuation requires not full conventions. As for their warrant in meeting, he affirmed, 1^o, That meetings had warrant from God's word; 2^o, his Majesty's laws; 3^o, Their Presbyteries, who had sent them in Commission to that effect, and after approved their prorogating the day (which was all they did), and therefore were to be blamed, if any thing was done amiss, and not the particular persons, who were but only the executors of their Presbyteries will and commission. To the 2^d, he answered, That the absence of a Moderator and Clerk was not *de essentiali Synodi*, and therefore the one (to wit, Mr Patrick Galloway, Moderator of the former Assembly) absenting himself, the other (to wit, Mr Thomas Nicolson, Clerk), being present, but craving leave to be absent for that time, because of his weighty affairs, they might create others in their places, according to the practice of the Church of Scotland, as it is to be seen in the books of the General Assembly. To the third, he answered, shewing that his Majesty was informed much amiss therein, seeing it was of verity that one of the pastors at Aberdeen, to wit, Mr James Rossie, made the sermon before their meeting. As for the pretended charge given the night before, he then, in the name of the whole Church of Scotland, adjured Lowreston (being there present), as he should answer

before the great God, in the day of the appearing of Jesus Christ to judge the quick and the dead, to testify, before God and his Majesty, the truth of that matter, whether there was any such charge or not; who never opened his mouth to speak one word. Thus, having satisfied his Majesties objections, they wer dismissed.¹

On Twofday, 23 September, in the morning, they wer warned by the said Mr Alexander Hay to be at sermon again; who, when they had come to the King's chappel, wer placed hard by the pulpet to heare Dr Bucrage [Buckeridge] on Rom. 13.1. *Omnis anima potestatibus superioribus subiecta est*, &c., touching the King's Supremacie; who, although he delt not so naughtily as the former, yet still joyned Pope and Presbyterie together as enemyes to Kings' supremacie. After they had dined (being honorably, as they wer the Lordis day before, entertained at Court, by his Majesties appoyntment), they wer fend for to come to his Majesty; who, with the young Prince, came, accompanied with the former Scottish Lordis, Bishops, Commissioners, and many of the Nobilitie of England, as Salisbury, Knollis, Suffolk, Admirall Harie Howard, with the Archbifhop of Canterbury, and sondrie others of the clergie, lurking behind a *painted cloath*. *The Ministers having resolved rpon their answers to his Majesties two propositions, perceiving that the matter was like to turn to contradiction,* desired the Earle of Dumbar to request his Majesty that none might be present at their conference, save only Scotish men, as was on the Monday before, lest they speaking any thing whereat his Majesty might be offended, he tooke the same after in the worse part because of that auditive. His Majesty would have none removed that were there present.²

After sitting downe, he asked them (not as he had done the day before, hearing one answer for all, as they thought he should) in particular, their mindis in the former two questions; and beginning with the Scottish Bishops and Commissioners, he asked their minds, *in hypothesi*, what they thought touching that Assembly at Aberdeen, and the proceedings of them who mett there? Who all of them, *enâ voce*, without any scruple, condemned the Ministers in prison for meeting at that Assembly, and

¹ Calderwood says, the Ministers "were convoyed through the gairdin and parke by Sir David Murrey."—(History, vol. vi, p. 571.) Sir David Murray of Gorthy was tutor to Prince Henry.

their proceedings thereafter. His Majesty perceiving the Bishops and Commissioners to condemn that Assembly, and the Ministers meeting thereat, proceeds, and demands of Mr Andro Melvill (who stood next in order to them), saying, "Yee see how your Brethren here cannot justify these men, nor that Assembly. What say you, therefore? Whether think ye that a few number of 8 or 9, without any warrant, do meet, wanting the chiefe members of an Assembly. as the Moderator and Scribe, convening vnmanerly, without a sermon, being also discharged before by open proclamation, can make vp an Assembly or not?" To the which the said Mr Andro answered, "That the particulars of this proposition were answered the night before, and further, he could not say, being these many years he had been debarred from all Assemblies and public meetings; and as for condemning the brethren in prison, and their proceedings, so rashly, hee could not." Then his Majesty asked, "Why, what reasons have ye moving you do not condemn them?" He answered, "If it please your Majesty to heare these:—1°. I am but a privat man, come, without any commission from the Church of Scotland, vpon your Majesties Letter; and therefore being *Nemo constituit me iudicem*, I cannot take vpon me to condemn them. 2°. Your Majesty hath, by vertue of your proclamation, dated here at Hampton Court (which he then produced), remitted their triall to a Generall Assembly, expecting then for reparation of wronge, if any be done: I therefore cannot prejudice the Church and Assembly of my vote there, which, if I give now, I shall be sure to have my mouth shut then. as, by former experience, I and the rest of the brethren have tryed before. 3°. *Res est hactenus iudicata* by your Majesties Council (whether justly or not), that I remit to the Lord, the searcher of all hearts, before whom one day they must appeare and answer for that sentence: Shall I then take vpon me to contradict your Majesties Council and their doings? I think your Majesty will not be well content herewith. Lastly, How can I condemn them *iudicata causa*, not hearing both their accusers, in objecting against them what they can, as also the parties themselves in pleading for themselves? Vntill the tyme, therefore, that I heare both parties *trinque*, I can say nothing."

Next him in order stood Mr James Balfuir, who being vrged by his Majesty to signifie his minde, desired his Majesty not to frait him, for the

reasons before alleadged (for that [what] they had all thought vpon, Mr Melvill, speaking first, delivered); as also, because he suspected his Majesty was informed of him amisse, and therefore whatsoever he spake would not be taken in good part, but more irritate his Majesty, which they were very unwilling to do.

Next him was Mr James Melvill pressed; who answered to his Majesty, "That being a great part of the time was spent, he would be the briefer, and the rather, being he had received since his coming to London from the prisoners, in a mass of letters, their Informations given in to the Parliament, as also their Protestation against erecting of Lord Bishops then presented, which both at that time were refused (*for the Commissioners of the Church, specially Mr Patrick Galloway and Mr James Nicolson, stayed the presenting of both, refusing themselves to present them, as also their grievances, and causing an ordinance to be made in Council that nothing should be received from the Church but out of the Commissioners hand, by their Moderator, Mr Patrick Galloway, thus closed they up the way from all others, and they themselves would not*), and now were desired to be delivered by him, in their names, in his Majesties own hands." Which being presented by the said Mr James, his Majesty fell a reading of them presently.

In the meantime, while his Majesty thus was reading them, his Majesties attorney, Sir Thomas Hamilton, began to presse Mr William Scot touching the said point; to whome he answered so gravely and learnedly, using both termes of law, logick, and theologie, that he had the great applause of the nobilitie of England.

The King's Advocat seeing the said Mr William to answer so discretely, and he having no solide reason to oppone, fallis a railing of the prisoners. Mr Andro Melvill, seeing the Advocat so severely to judge them and ther proceedings, stood vp, and related, *ab ipso oro*, the whole circumstances of their meeting at that Assembly, and other proceedings since, so that whereas before he would speak nothing to condemne them, now he altogether purged them and their whole doings, and said to the Advocat, "My Lord, yee would do God and his Majesty better service, if ye bended your forces and speeches against your vncle, Mr John Hamilton, a seminary priest, and one Mr Gilbert Brown, Abbot of Newabbay, who haue

infected a great part of Scotland with their superstitious dregs of Poperie. But those mens heads yee have clapt, and flut vp the faithfull fervants of Jesus Christ into priffon. And still, my Lord, yee shew your self possessed with the same spirit, for yee think it not enough to haue pleaded against them in Scotland, vsing all the skill and cunning yee could there, except now also yee continue *κατήγορος των αδελφων.*"

At which words the King, turning him about to the Archbishop, said. "What is yon he says, my Lord? I think he is calling him, out of the Revelation, the Antichrist; nay, be God, he calleth him the very Diuel."¹

Thus, in end, all of the eight Ministers gaue their minde; and seeing that the King and his Advocat stood only to quarrel *apices, et rei medullam preterire*, they stood the stronger in clearing the priffoners, so that whatsoever reason was omitted of one was brought by another, everie one having a pretie time to advyse vpon his answer, seeing the former speeker spent a quarter of an hour or more. In end, his Majesty demanded of them what they thought in the other point, and what overtour they would giue to pacifie things? They answered, There best overture was to haue a free Generall Assembly, by which all iarres would be removed, and all things quickly quieted. Being demanded also what they thought of his Majesties Supremacie? They desired that his Majesty would sett down a proposition in write, shewing what he did require of them, and they should giue his Majesty their minds in write again, what they thought therein. Thus the King and Prince and Nobilitie arises, and they were dismissed, not without the great applause of the Nobilitie of England there present, who heard them speake so gravely and boldly in God's cause, who were brought thether (although against the desire of the Ministers, yet), by God's providence, to be informed of the truth, and beare witnes thereto.

On the morrow, being Weddinsday, 24 September, the said Mr Alexander Hay was sent from his Majesty to Mr James Melvill, to see if he would subscribe the thingis giuen in by him the night before: Who answered, Althocht they were non of his, yet he would subscribe them in that maner, and with the words he gaue them in; which being written

¹ Calderwood adds the following words, as part of the King's speech on this occasion:—"Weill bowled, brother Johne," said the King; and so rying cuttedlie, and turning his backe, he said, "God be with you, Sirs."—(History, vol. vi. p. 577.)

On Friday, 25 September, a Commission was directed to Scotland to banish God's brethren that were condemned out of his Majesty's dominions, and the rest in prison to be barbarous. The other inhabiting the Ministrie of Scotland to pray for them, except after this manner, that God would open their eyes to see their offence, acknowledge the same, and crave pardon therefor.

by him on a peece of paper, wer carried to his Majesty, to see how he liked of that subscription, who seeing the words, said he would require no subscription at all. All that week they were no more called on.

The Sabbath following, they were charged to come to his Majesties chappel, to heare Dr Andrews, Bishop of Wastcheffer, [Chichester], opening vp Numb. [10, 1, 2.], in which he compared their Presbyteries to the conspiracie of Corah, Dathan, and Abiram.

On the Monday, 29 September, they were called to come before the Council of Scotland, who, after they had [separately inquired] again of euery one in particular touching that Assembly at Aberdeen, put the deponer in a corner, left. returning, he might signifie to the subsequent what he had confessed. In which trial, God so ruled all of their hearts and months, that (although none of them heard what another had confessed, yet) all of them agreed joyntly in one harmonie. The said day, they demanded of them also, if they had prayed for the prisoners, and what was the particular forme thereof; who confessed that all of them had prayed, but the particular form they could not remember, seeing many of them used not a set forme. Alwayes at that time some of them rehearsed the particular words, so neere as they could remember, and subscribed the same with their hands. Others desired a tyme to call the same in minde.

On the morrow, being Twyfday, the 30th September, the sermon being begun by Dr King (*qui quantus, quantus fuit, totus fuit, in convitijs*), and they missed from the chappel, wer sent for, with all expedition, who cunningly heard him. Thereafter they were called before the Council, to give in the particular forme of their prayer, subscribed by their hands; at which time also they who the night before, *ex tempore*, had done the same, gave in the particular forme of their prayers, as more advicedly thought vpon.

On Thursday, 2^d. Octobris (his Majesty being gone to Roynton the day before), they were sent for again to the Council of Scotland, and had these propositions set down to them in writ, subscribed by Mr A. Hay clerk of the Council his hand, in his Majesties and their names, to which they desired them to have an answer in readines when they sent for them again. Thus they wer dismissed, and their answers not called for till the 9th of November, at which time all of them gave in their particular answers.

The said day his Majesty, hearing of a supplication sent by the prisoners, sent by a Lord of Dunbar to Mr James Melville to ask for the same, which, in their names, he did also deliver; there after was discharge from sending any more to King or Princes.

The 23 of November, Alexander Hay was fend to them from his Majesty, with this ambassage, That whereas his Majesty had writ for them to heare their counfel and advife in pacifying matters, and that they had not fatisfied his Majesty, but fome of them had fhewed themfelves inobedient to his Majesties command, therefore hee thought good to fend them to the Schoole of Obedience; to wit, Mr Andro Melvil to Dr Bilfon, Bifhop of Winchefter; James Balfour to Dr Gigon [Jegon], Bifhop of Norwich; James Melvil to Dr James, Bifhop of Durham; William Watfon to Dr Vaughan, Bifhop of London; William Scot to Dr Dove, Bifhop of Peterburrow; Robert Wallace to Dr Barlow, Bifhop of Rochefter; Adam Colt to Dr Cotton, Bifhop of Salifbury; and John Carmichael to Dr Mathew, Bifhop of York.

XXXIX.—KING JAMES TO THE PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE.

JAMES R.

Trustie and weilbelouit, We greit yow hartlie weil: Oure knowledge of the jealousies and diftraçtiõnes of lait tyme, arriffin without any neceffar or effentiall caus in the Kirk of Scotland, the progres quhairof nicht tend to oppin diffentiones amangis the Pastouris, to thair awin troubill, the euill exampill of Oure peopill, and Oure miscontentment, haiving moved Us to fend for ane number of the Minifterie, quhome We vnderfunde to be of knowlege and gude experience, that be thair information the caufes of these greiffis nicht be trewlie knawn, and the best meanis deuyfit for removing fuche vnneceffar contentiones, and reducing thair proceidinges to ane fetled and gude ordoure for thair awin quytnes and Our obedience, We haue not reffauit that fatisfaction be thame quhilk We expected, thair anweris tending more to ignorance of these diftraçtiõnes and grudges, (quhilk, to Oure greife, is ouer manifest to the warld,) nor to any aduysé of the remedies thairof. And becaufe We could not be blameles of vndewtfull negligence, gif We should leave any gude meanis vnaffayed, and quhilk nicht bring reddiest remeid to bypast difordouris, and best affurance for gude ordoure in the

Kirk, and obedience to Our authoritie, in tyme cuning, Therfoir We haue thoct it needfull to appoint sum Nobilmen, and vtheris of Oure Counfall, to conveine with ane gude number of godlie, wyfe, and learned Ministeris of the Presbeteris of that Oure Kingdome, at Linlythgow, the tent day of December nixtoeum, to aduise and resolue vpon the remeidis of bypast distractiones, preventing of imminent dangeris be the daylie ineres of the number of Papistis travelling in all cornaris of that Kingdome, to disturb the peace of the Kirk and cuntrie, and subuert Our Royall Estat; and for setting of gude ordoure and quyetnes in the Kirk, and obedience to our authoritie: For quhilk purpois Our will is, That ye direct Mr Johne Fairfoull, minister at Dumfermeling, Mr Andro Forrester, minister thair, and Mr James Stewart, minister at Sawling, of your Presbeterie, to be present withe sik of Our Nobilitie and Counfall as We haue commandit to meit thame, the said day and place: That by thame they may know Our godlie and just desyres, and that sik as ye send may giue thair informationn, aduise, concurrence, and iugement to the furderance of gude ordoure, peace, and obedience in the Kirk and cuntrie to Our authoritie, preventing of Papistis courtes, dilaiting the names of the authouris thairof, and sik as relettis Jesuitis, Priestis, and traffiking Papistis, or vtheris excommuniat perfones, as also sik as resortis not to the Kirk and Communioun, according to Our lawis and Actis of Parliament maid thairanent; and in all vther matters of the lyke nature, tending to the peace of the Kirk and Our obedience: Whairanent Oure constant affection to the aduancement of all sik godlie purpoises wilbe more larglie signified to thame at the said meitting, be sik of Oure Nobilitie and Counfall as hes Our expres direccioun in these matteris. So resting assurit of your conformitie and dewtifull obedience in the performence of this Our command, tending to so godlie and needfull endis, We bid yow hartlie fairweill. At Newmarket, the xx of October 1606.

To Our trustie and wellbelouit the Ministeris
of the Presbeterie of Dumfermeling,

XL.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE :

Wpon the refeat of your Heghnes letter, willing me to repair towardis Linlithqw for assisting certane your Heghnes effaires and seruices to be traitit thair : whiche charge maist willinglie I did wnder-tak, being a mater of so great worthe, and tending so muche to the pace, tranquiletie, and weill of the Church, in this your Heghnes kingdome : Whair lykwayis a good number of the Nobelitie, with the Prelattis and Ministrie, war assemblit ; and findrie materis tuiching that Staite being handlit in so good forme, with prouident and weill effectit dispositioun in euerie one, that I dar be bauld to say, [in] a Conuentioun or meting of sua greit a number, neuer les contrarietie in voitis or opiniounes (except in sum litle not at all to be comptit) : whiche having takin end, to new occasioun, with fuche applaus and contentment, that I am not able to writ quhat the pepill haif exclomit your Heighnes praise, be so wyfe and graue consideratioun, be the employing of fuche a faithfull counfallour, the Erl of Dunbar, in fuche a holie work :¹ whair, Ciuill materis haifing good succes in his handis, no les has he had in thir Spirituall materis, who, wnder God and your Majestie, hes bein ane good instrument to fadle thir thingis ; quhilk your Majestie will wnderstand moir particularlie be the Counfellis letter. The assistaunce of the Erl of Wigtoun, and my Sone, hes bein, to thair pouar, good associatis in this erand, for fordering your Heighnes commandentis. And in my persone, altho my habiletie be nocht in the wonted forme, my hart fall go to the graive with loyall and dentefull obedience in whatsumeuer your Majestie fall command me. Whair now, haifing adreflit my self towardis Edinburghe, to attend on your Majesteis directiounes ; beseiking your Majestie, euer to be conferuit in your Heghnes fauour. In all humi-

¹ According to Sir James Balfour, the unanimity which prevailed at this Assembly, was chiefly owing to the bribery practised by the Earl of Dunbar, Lord High Treasurer, " amongst the most needy and clamorous of the ministry." He adds, that this " mystery of state came thereafter to light, by the view of the Lord Thesaurer Dunbar his compts."—(Annals, vol. ii. p. 18.)

letie taking my leive, be kissing your Heighnes handis, shall pray God for long lyfe and happie regune to your Majestie. Will rest and remane.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient
subject and seruitour to the deathe,

Linlithco, the xiiij of Decem^r 1606.

MONTROISS.

To his Royall Majestie.

XII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL AND MODERATOR OF THE
ASSEMBLY AT LINLITHGOW TO KING JAMES.

[Calderswood mentions that "the Nobilitie, at the request of the Assemblie, wrote to his Majestie in favours of Mr Robert Bruce."—(Hist., vol. vi. p. 609.) Notwithstanding the following very urgent appeal, it would appear that the King had withheld his consent to Bruce's removal from the North. It probably was in consequence of this refusal that no notice of Bruce's Supplication was taken in the attested extract of the proceedings of the Assembly at Linlithgow, which is inserted in the Booke of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii. pp. 1022—1035.]

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOVERANE,

At this Assemblie, keipit be your Maiesteis appointment at Lynlythgw, thair wes ane Petitioun presented in name of Mr Robert Bruce, proporting, that with all dewtyfull reverence he had satisfied your Maiesteis direccioun, be his entrie and keiping of wairde within the Burgh of Invernes this yeare bigane and mair, and be his dewtyfull behauncour during the tyme of his wairde, without any justt occasion of offence to your Sacred Maiestie, with a full and constant purpos and resolution during the hailt course of his lyfe to cary him selfe every way to your Maiesteis obedience and satisfiactioun, and how that in this meantyme he had contracted divers diseasis, whilkis imported the hafard and perrell of his lyfe, and thairfor he humlie craved of the Assemblie, that be thair intercessioun, your Maiestie myght be intreated to transport his wairde from Invernes to his awin place of Kinnaird, where he mycht

haif the commoditie to be consulted and advyfed with phifitionis and men of knowlege, anent the nature of his difeafe, and ordinarye remedyis for the fame. This letter being red in publiēt audience, and the forme of his behaueour in his wairde being examinat be the Affemblye, and no thing fundin nor tryed bot ane dewtyfull cariage on his part, The hail Affemblye, all in ane voce, humlie intreated and requēited ws to recommend vnto your Sacred Maieftie his eſtāt and conditionn, and to requēit your Heynes to haue a fauourable confideratioun of him, and to returne him hame to his awin duelling, wherin thay perſwade thame ſelffis to find your Majefteis accuſtomed gracious and element diſpoſitioun, and the rather for our interceſſioun, proceeding from thair vniuerfall conſent and requēit; And thairfoir, for ſatiſfactioun of the Brethren, we mone be bold, in all reverence and humilitie, to recommend vnto your Maieftie gracious and fauourable confideratioun the ſaid Mr Robert, and to requēit your Sacred Maieftie to returne him hame, vpoun ſuch conditionis as to your Sacred Maieftie ſhall ſeame expedient, wherethrow the hoipis and expectatioun of the Brethren may be ſatiſſeit, and the ſaid Mr Robert may haif moir nor caus to acknowledge your Maieftie gracious dealing with him: And ſua praying God to bleſſe your Sacred Maieftie with a long and happie lyffe, and eternall felicitie, we reſt,

Your Maieftie maift faithfull and
obedient ſubieētis and ſeruitouris,

LOTHIANE.	ROSS.	MONTROISS.
COLVILLE OF CULROS.	DOWNBAR.	GLENCAIRNE.
A. WCHILTRIE.	BLANTYR.	CASSILLIS.
D. SCONE.	LINLYTHGW.	
J. LINDSAY.	WIGTOUN.	CLERICUS REGISTR.
KILSAYTH.	ORKNAY.	JA. NICOLSON,
S. ROBERT MELULL.	KINGORNE.	<i>Moderator.</i>

Lynlythgw, 13 December 1606.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

XLII.—HIS MAJESTIES COMMISSIONERS TO THE ASSEMBLY AT
LINTHIGOW TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAJESTIE,

Having for obedience of your Hienes letter bene present at the Assemblie of Lintgow as your Maiesties Commissionars, and thairin done our most humbill and faithfull inducours to sie all thinges grauelie and wyfelie proceedit vnto for the weill and peace of the Kirk, quietnes of the cuntrey, and dew obedience of your Maiesties authoritie, according to the most wyse and prouident directions and instructions send to vs be your Maiestie thairanent. Albeit, the great distractions standing this whyle bygane amangis the Ministrie, and hard opinions allweill preconfaied be sinderie of thame, as by ane great number of your Hienes vther subiectis, of dyuers pourpoces hardlie intendit aganis the libertie of the Discipline and Policie of the Kirk to be wrocht at this tyme, maid the beginning of oure trauellis full of doubt and difficulties: yet that blissing of God, whilk ordinarlie accompanys the iustice of your Maiesties most holie and wyse disleigns, efter many appearances of great opposition to haue bene maid to all that we could haue proponed, kythed so foreibill at this tyme, that efter oure declaration of your Hienes constant fauour to the Kirk and all godlie and dewtifull Ministers, and thair consideration of the acceptabill contentis of your most gracious Letter directed to the Assemblie, thair myndis wer thairby so far chainged, that first thay ordanit your Maiesties letter to be inked in thair Register, and persauing be the progres of our actions, how great your Maiesties caire wes to repres and punis the Papistis, and to menteane the Kirk in thair liberties, and strenthen thame with the power of your Maiesties authoritie, the sight of thair former error, and of the v unexpected weill offered to thame in your Maiesties name, maid the haill Assemblie, and evin these, wha came of set powrpose to haue opposed to the power and lausfulness thair of, and to our haill proceedingis thairin, to consent to all that wes concluded with greater moderation and yniformitie, nor euer wes sene in any former Assemblie. Whair of your Maiestie will vnderstand the par-

ticulars be the actis thairof ordanit to be extracted and fend to your Maieftie. Swa that in end, all that wer prefent, alſweill of the nobilitie, counfall, baronis, and ministrie having vote, as the rest wha came to haue opponed to oure power and proceedingis, in ane voce gaue most hairtlie thankis to God for your Maiefties continence of your lone to this your Natiue cuntrey, and caire of the weill of your faithfull Subiectis, and libertie of the Kirk thairof; and most affectuouſly requieſted ws, in all thair names, to giue to your Maieftie most humbill, hairtlie, and vn-feyned thankis for the exceiding confort whilk they haue reſſaued be the gracious effectis vttered at this tyme, of your Maiefties constant affection to this Kirk and cuntrey; for the whilk, albeit they can not offer or performe any farder nor thair former dewtie band thame to do, yit, we ar affured, that they will nener ceafe to wiſh to thame ſelfis the happines to haue occaſion to manifeſte to the worlde how earnestlie they deſyre to mak it knawin be thair actiōs, and all that the frie and readie beſtowing of thair trauellis, moyens, bloude, or lyues can effectuat, how far they think thame ſelfis bund beyond ordinar dewtie of common ſubiectis to thair Prince, to expreſſe thair infinit lone, and humbill and faithfull affection to your Maieftie for your immerſill and daylie inereſſing benefites and fauouris to thame. And becaus we haue most euidentialie ſene this thair requieſt to proceid of the ſincere affection of thair faithfull hairtis, we haue tane this bauldenes trewlie to recorde the ſamin to your Maieftie at thair earnest deſyre, hopping that your Maieftie wald graciouſlie accept it in gude pairt. Whairin humble crauing your Maiefties pardoun for oure preſumption, we beſeik God long to preſerue your Maiefties lyf and health, and to increas your Hienes proſperitie, honour, and contentment. At Edenburgh, the 16 of December 1606.

Your Maiefties most humbill and
faithfull ſeruands,

J. LINDESAY.
BLANTYRE.

MONTRUISS.
S^r. JOHNE SKENE.
JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieftie.

XLIII.—THE PROVOST AND TOWN COUNCIL OF EDINBURGH TO
KING JAMES.

OUR MAIST GRATIOUS AND SOVERANE LORD,

Pleis your maist Sacred Maieftie : We haue, for obedience of the command of your Maiefties Counfall of this Kingdome, directit the beirers heirof, our conburgesses, and your Maiefties humble subiectis, Thomas Fifehear and Williame Speir, merchants, to your Maieftie, for the same maters of the Vnioun, quhairin they had commiffioun of befor, quha, we ar perswadit, hes done and will do thair honest dewtie thairin to your Maiefties contentment : And thairfore we ar this bauld to recommend thame to your Maiefties guide favour and acceptance : And becaus it is nocht wknawin that, for advancement of your Maiefties service in this reahne, your Maieftie borrowit fra ws dyvers fowmes of money, for the quhilk our commoun guide is therlett as yit, sua that except your Maieftie haue consideratioun thairof, we will thairby, and throw the want of your Maiefties grations presence, quhilk was sa confortabill wnto ws in many respects, becom sehortlie vnhabill to do that dewtifull service to your Maieftie that our haurtis wald, or yit to interteny that rank and estimation quhilk we haue had in tyme past : And feing this present Taxatioun grantit wpon this Reahne, quhairin we did all our indevoir, becaus we wnderstode it was your Maiefties will, was sett for outtredding of your Maiefties debts, We maist humbly pray your Maieftie that we may be helpit to the payment of our iust and honest debt in the forend thairof, To repair in sum mesour our bygane losses. Forther, it hes pleasit your Maieftie hetherto to tak ane cair of the plantation of our Kirk ; and M. Patrik Galloway, your Maiefties Minister, and M. Gilbert Prymrose, hes bene be your Maieftie all[owit] thairto : Neuertheles, we ar as yit destitute of baith. We pray your Maieftie thairfor, that M. Patrik may be movit, be your Maiefties autoritie, to accept the plaice, becaus we profeitt littill be our travells as yit at his handis : And as to the vther, we ar lyk to lose all expectation of him ; albeit your Maieftie and we hes writtin to him, quhairof we haue

refeaut na anfuere. That, for this caus, it may pleis your Maieftie to gif ws libertie to elect sic as we can find maift qualifiet, and best lykit of be your Maieftie: And fua feiring to trubill your Maieftie with langer letter, we haue referrit thir matters, and all vther things concerning ws, to the beirers, with credit: And praying for your Maiefties lang and prosperous regne ower ws, We commit your Maieftie to the proteftioun of the Almichtie. From this your Maiefties Burgh of Edinburgh, this tuxt of Februar 1607. Be

Your Maiefties maift humbill and obedient fubjects,

THE PROVEST, BAILLIES, AND COUNSALL OF THE
BURGH OF EDINBURGH.

DUNFERMELYNE, *Provest.*

NINLANE MARKORAN, *Baillie.*

JAMES NISBETT, *Baillie.*

JAMES ARNOTT, *Baillie.*

To the maift heich, maift excellent, and gratious Prince, Our maift dreidfull and Soucrane Lord, the Kingis maift Sacred Maieftie.

XLIV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAJESTIE :

What wpon the bond dew of my fernice, and nixt the occasioun of this worthee berar, your Maiefties verrie lowing fubject, my Lord Bifhop of Glesgow, having takin hardement now, as of befoir, to write what his panes and trauellis hes bein in the gouernament of the Church in this your Heighnes Kingdome, maift cairfullie and diligentlie hes wfit him felf with fo good moderatioun, as I wifche from myne hart enerie one in that degrie carie the lyk procedour, who is meritable of many thankis. As I am affurit your Princelie cair is touardis all weil

affectit; and in respect of my daie attendance heir wpon your Maieftis directiones and fernices, nather hath ane occasioun or wther of my awin adois impeditit me in any fort, whilkis, thankis be to God, hath takin in sum meafour good succes: And in particular, this last handling we had heirtofoir in Linlithco for estaiblifching of quyet stait in the Churche, and moderating abstinat Papistis to the bettir dischiplein, we haue had sum of those befoir ws in Counsell, and quhat be fair meanes, and wtherwayis be threatningis, we think, be procefs of tyme, God of his mercie, and your Maieftis element iustice, will induce thame the richt way. As your Maieftie will understand our procedour aganis sum of the hieft, and not the meifest, and what my part was thairin, whiche I remit to be declarit be wtheris. Bot as I haue begun to ferue your Maieftie with policie of a guid gouernament, so I hoip to end my dayis with ane fatle of boithe in Churche and ciuill estait, that heirefter, in agis to cum, it may be enrollit siche holie and Godlie workes were effectuât be siche a wyfe and learned Prince, whom I pray God fend many happie dayis, with iselue of good successioun, and a ioyfull ending. Thus, with all humble maner, I tak my leive be kissing your Maiefties handis. Shall rest and remane,

Your Maieftis most humble subiect
and fernitour to deathe,

Edinburghe the 26 of Februar 1607.

MONTRIOISS.

To his maiest Royall Maieftie.

XLV.—THE BAILLIES AND TOWN COUNCIL OF GLASGOW TO
KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

May it please your Sacred Maieftie: The nyctbouris and induel-
leris of this your Hienes Citie of Glasgu, being now satlit in a perfect
peace and quyetnes, efter long and trublesum broylis, cheiffie be the

cair and diligence of your Maiefties trustie fervitour, and our verie gude Lord, the Archibifchop of Glasgu, We tak the boldnes to remember your Hienes of that declaratioun of your Maiefties gracious pleafour anent the forme quhilk falbe kept in the electioun of our Provest yeirly in all tyme cunning, quhairin we all of ws ar contentit to follow your Hienes direktionis; and in this and all vthir thingis to conforme our felfis to that quhilk we fall vnderstand to be your Maiefties most gracious will. We expect, Sir, the declaratioun heirof be our Archibifchop at his return,¹ quhome we haif also requeifit, in all hwmill fort, to mean the pair estait of our Citie to your Hienes, the dettis quhilkis haif bene contractit throw thir trublis haif neir exbauffit the commoun gude, the ruynis of our Kirk, and vthir inconvenientis that be wattr we ar lyke to sustene; to the end our estait being maid knawin to your Hienes, a lettir may be sent to the Lordis of your Maiefties Secret Counfall, willing thame to vse ws as vtheris your Hienes subjeftis with favour, and nocht to impose ony burdingis or taxtis vpon ws bot thofe that falbe

¹ The Presbytery of Glasgow appear not to have been fully satisfied with the Bishop's attention being so constantly diverted by public affairs from his duties as a minister, and they had resolution enough to express this, in the following terms, in their Minutes; but the result is not stated:—

1607, June 24. *Anent the Bishop of Glasgow.*—The Presbiterie vnderstanding that thair ar ordenit be the last Synodall Assemblie to summond the Bischop of Glasgw, how sone he sall cum hame to this cuntrey, to compeir before thame and the Commissionaris efter following; to wit, Mr William Birnie, Johnne Lindsaye, Mr Robert Darroche, Mr Patrik Walkinshawe, Mr Johnne Hay, Mr Patrik Hammiltoun, Mr Walter Stewart, and Mr William Simpsonn, within the Blackfrier Kirk of Glasgw, at ane certane daye and houre, to be contenit in the summondis to be rasis aganis him; and thair to accuse him for his non-residence, and for his negligence in the discharge of his office in the Ministerie in the Kirk of Glasgw, and for his not subseryving of the Caveatis of the Generall Assemblie, contenit in his admissioun, quhilk he promeisit to have subseryvit; and anent ane wther greiff notishit be thame, and offens in his persone that can be laid to his charge, as in the Act of the last Synodall Assemblie is at mair lenth contenit. The said Presbiterie, for thair obedience to the said Act, conforme thairto, summoundis the said Bischop, personalie present and Moderator in thair Presbiterie, to the xxij daye of Julij instant, to compeir before thame and the said Commissionaris, in the said place, at ten houris befor noon; and ordenis letteris to be writtin be thair Clerk to the said Commissionaris, to be present the said daye, to the effect foirsaid." (Maitland Miscellany, vol. ii. p. 409.)

inpositt vpon your Hienes hail cuntrie. And our trust is also, that at sum moir convenient ocaasion, your Maiestie wilbe pleasit to supplie ws of your Hienes Princelie liberalitie, speeciallie to the reedifing of our ruynous Churches, quhilk is ane of the rarest werkis of this pairt of your Hienes Kingdome. And for our selfis, we will nocht cease to remembir your Maiestie in all our prayeris to Almychtie God, and for your Hienes seruice bestow our lyveis, our gudis, and quhat else foevir wee haif and enjoy. Kissing your Maiesties handis, in all humbleness we tak our leave.

Glasgu, the vij of Merche 1607.

Your Maiesties humble and obedient subjectis,

THE BAILLEIS AND COUNSELL OF THE CITIE OF GLASGU.

A. FORRET.

ROBERT ROWAT, *Baillie.*

JAMES BRAIDUOID.

THOMAS MUR, *Baillie.*

JAMES INGLIS.

MATHEW TRUMBLE, *Baillie.*

JAMES FISCHER.

WILLIAM ANDERSON.

WALTER DOUGLASS.

AR^d. FAULLIS.

GEORGE LYOUNE.

JOHNNE RETCHIE.

A. HEYGAT, *per Actum Consilii dicti Burgi signavit.*

To the Kingis most Excellent Maiestie.

NLVL.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

BLISSED SOUERANE,

May it pleis your Sacred Maiestie: My Lord Earle of Dunbar (whois fidelite and prudene in your Maiesties seruice heir, hes purchased pre-eminence in deserued praise and dew comparifon, redounding to your Maiesties glorie) wald not depairt from Edinburg, vntill his Lordship did see ane contract formed, reformed, and perfected, betnix my Lord Earle of Orknay and me, conform to that same minut, whiche bothe of vs did subseriue, at your Maiesties command and palace of Whythall, in Nouem-

ber laſt. Sir, I haue leirned ἀρχωντι, και νομο, και σοφώτερω εἵκειν, that is, to obey the Prince, the law, and the moir prudent; and therfor I reſt content witle that condition which your Maieſties wiſdome hes prouydit, your gracious fauour hes beſtowed, and your will hes aſtricted my ſubmiſſiue and obliged obedienc to accept: Remembring that of Plato, Many men looſe be vntymlic deſyrs, but ar crowned with preſent content; and therwithe ſtill houping that your Maieſties moſt circumſpectiue prudenc fall, in the moments of fit opportunitie, perfect your oune work without ony letting reſpect to my vnworthy imperfectione. But leaſt your gracious Maieſtie ſuld think that of Seneca, *Memorie minimum tribuit, qui [quisquis] ſpei plurimum*, to be treue in me, I moſt humble beſeich your Maieſtie to accept for all your Maieſties benenolenc and beneficenc vnderferued, my firſt poore penſione of thanks, *quam tantam habeo, quam maximam animus meus capere poteſt*, and my vow of bund ſeruie, which tuo it behouis all deutiſull to do who ar not habill to regraciat. Whiche baſe preſent (les than the widouis myt, I confeſ,) being fauorable countenancit be your moſt gracious Maieſtie, in whome inborne clemencie hes euer beene tender to compaſſione, eaſie to remiſſione, and reddie to ſubuention and ſuccour, I would, vpon my knees, mak moſt humble ſupplication to your moſt Excellent Maieſtie in fauour of my Lord Earl of Orknay, as ane teſtimonie bothe of my good affectione towards his Lordſhip, as eſpecialle of my humble obedienc and obſeruanc of your Maieſties moſt wyſe direction to me. In all whiche I moſt humble craif your Maieſties pardone for my preſumptione; and ſeing I can not deſigne nor comprehend the breed of my deuot affectione to your Maieſtie in the narrow liſts of paper, kiſſing your Maieſties hand moſt humble, I tak my leiſ, praying God moſt earneſtlic to defend and bliſſe your Royall perſone and ſtait, with merey, peac, and grae, and all bliſſings iſſewing thairfra.

Your moſt Excellent Maieſties
moſt humble ſeruand,

Edinburg, 14 Martii 1607.

JA. ORCADEN.

To the King his moſt Excellent Maieſtie.

XLVII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

[Among Balfour's State Papers and Letters of 1607, we find the following note, without date, addressed by the Marques of Huntley to the Earl of Dunfermline. As it appears from the letter, at page 14, that the Provincial Assembly at Aberdeen had been "dealing" with the Marques, in February 1605, it more probably refers to that period, rather than to that of the subjoined letter from the Privy Council to the King, in March 1607.

MY UERRAY GOOD LORD and special Cousing, being forsit, upon the strait deling of the Mini-strie, to haist me to his Majestie, according to his direction, with greater expedition nor I thocht to have done, I haif send this berar, my serviteur, to your Lo: requesting your Lo: maist hartlie that I may have your Lo: letters in my favours unto his Majestie, reporting my obediens to his Maj. will, and the Ministirs refusall. quhilk I dout not bot your Lo: is sufficientlie allredie informitt of, be his Majesties Commissioner, the Laird of Laurenstoun, quha can declair my pairt; and becaus I mynd to ventour my stait, in standing and falling with your Lo: gif your Lo: keip deuetic to me, quhilk I dout not of, I will the mair haimlie bourdein your Lo: to be the forderar of my affairis, as I have willitt this berar to impairt unto your Lo: at gettar lenth. Sua therto remitting, my loving commendations rememberit, I will rest,

Your Lordships maist louing Cousing at pouar,

To my uerray good Lord and maist
special couising, my Lord Chaneellar.]

HUNTLYE.

PLIAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAJESTIE,

According to your Heynes direccioun anent the confynning of suche Nobilmen as ar suspecit to be of a contrair religioun, we cauffit charge the Marques of Huntley to compeir befor your Maiesteis Counfaill vpon the nyntene of this instant, and with him the Bischopis of Abirdeyne and Murray, and the Minister of his awne parroche, to haiff borne record of his behaviour. In the meantyme, without the knowlege or consent of ony of your Maiesties Counfaill, he is quyetic gone by ws towardis your Maiestie, and sua hes fruttrat this dyet, whilk we mon fuller to desert. Yff he had abiddin the tryall of the Counfell, we fould haif followit that course with him whilk your Maiestie hes so wyillie preseryved and fett down, bot feing he is now absent and with your Maiestie, we

will remitt him to your Heynes awne princelie censure; and what courfe your Maieftie will haif to be tane heirefter with otheris who fall committ the lyke errour, we fall imbrace it, and fee it reflaue executioun. We knew not of the Marques depairtour whill of lait, whilk is the caus that your Maieftie hes beene fo lang vnacquented thair of be ws. And fua praying God to grant vnto your Maieftie a lang and happy regnum, we reft,

Your Maiefties moift humble and obedient
 fubjectis and feruitouris,

Sen the writting of this letter, we haif hard frome Mr Alexander Hay of your Maiefties moft wyiff and princelie behauiour towardis the Marques, at his first vpeomeing, for the whilk we rander vnto your Maieftie moift humble and hairy thankis.

DOWNBAR.	MONTRISS.
BLANTYR.	AL. CANCELL. ^s .
S. ROBERT MELULL.	D. SCONE.
JO. PRESTOUN.	J. BALMERINO ^t .

Edinburgh the 16 of Marche 1607.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

XLVIII.—KING JAMES TO SIR JOHN LEIRMONTH, PROVOST OF ST ANDREWS.

JAMES R.

Truftye and weilbeloued, We greitt you hairtlye weil: Whereas We vnderftand that the plaice of the Miniftrie within the Churche of the Citye of St Androis, formerlye poffeffed be Mr David Lyndfay,¹ is now voyde and vnplanted, Thairfoir it is Our pleafure and will that ye. in Our name, as Our Commiffioner, conveyne the Commiffioners of the Generall Affemblye, and alfo command the Magiftrattis and Confell of the faid Citye to prefent to you lyttis of fufficient qualified and weil difpofed men of the miniftrie, amangis whome you fall mak choice of fuche one to fupplie the voyde plaice of that miniftrie in that Citye

¹ See note *supra*, p. 40.

whome the Archbifhops in his judgement fall think fitteft to poffefs the fame : And heirin ye fall do Ws moft acceptable pleafure and fervice, and fo We bid you fairweill. From Our Courte at Whytchall, the fevint of Apryle 1607.

To our trufty and weilbeloued,
St. Johne Leirmouth of Balcomye, knight.

NLIX.—MR PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEASE YOUR GRATIOUS MAIESTYE,

This prefent is to giue your Maieftye moft hartlye thankis for all your Maieftyes fanors towards me, fpeaciallye for the conftant continuance of your Maieftyes loue with me, as it vas vount ; affuring your Maieftye, you haue the man who neuer vas nor fhall, God willing, be found alterable in his duetifull affection to ferue your Maieftye, as becomes him. If it fall out that I fufpend my judgment in fomethingis proponed to me all hand, till I got fuller refolution both to fpeak and to ftand honeftlye to that vliche I fpeak, affuredlye it arryfes of no vnfound and altered affection toward your Maieftyes feruice, bot onlye off laik of foreinforming, vliche genes light and curage to men to doe ; and vherewith euer fince I ferued your Maieftye I haue bene made pertaker als foone as others : and for the clearing of this point, I referre myfelf to my Lord of Dunbars teftification, who can and will giue iust information to your Maieftye of it. I heare, that your Maieftye is refolved to haue the Miniftree of Edinburghe planted, the eftate vhereof is more miserable and defolat nor ony toun or kirk in Scotland ; and vliche is vorfe, the pulpittis ar fometymes poffeffed with yong people, and perfones vnmecte for that place, vliche bringis the Gofple and Miniftree into a contempt, and will onerturne all in end, if it be not remeadit. The planting of it will doe great good to all the countrey, and help to amend mony thinges amiffe, and procure great forderance of your Maieftyes feruice and qiyat of this kirk, provyding the perfones be good teachers, peaceably difpofed, and weyll

affected. I heare alſo, that your Maieſtye is ſome what moued to haue me placed there; bot, Ser, beleefe me, in truth I am not for it, in reſpect of many thinges in thame, and more in me, vvhiche can not concurre weyll to make vp a good mariage betuix vs. I need not to vſe many vordes with your Maieſtye, vho knoues vs both allſueyll as our ſelfis doe. I mynd, God willing, to teache euery Sabboth, where euer I be, ſo long as I may, and to be readye in moſt duetifull maner to concurre in your Maieſties ſernice, as I ſalbe employed; bot to take on the charge of a particular flock, and ſuch ane flock, my heart cannot yeeld, and I hope your Maieſtye ſhall not burden me with it. The bearer hereoff, Mr Peter Heuat, is ane honeſt man, and your Maieſtye may reioſe in the planting of him, being ane of your Maieſties owne plantation there, and anſuring to your Maieſties expectation of him in all pointis, and can truly and ſufficiently informe your Maieſtye of all particulars here: Bot he is not, as he deſerues, and as your Maieſtye appointed for his encouragement, anſured of his ſmall penſion aſſigned to him, vvhiche is pitie, and wald be helped to put difference betuix thoſe that ar your Maieſties owne men and others. If Mr Jhone Hall, ane honeſt man, and ane of your Maieſties owne planting alſo, and he war remoued, I wat not vvat fuld become of Edinburgh, your Maieſties cheefe Toune her.

Bot leaſing thoſe particulars, appardone me, Ser, to ſpeak ane word of the common cauſe. Ser, at Lighquho, my Lord of Dunbar did good ſernice to your Maieſtye, and by God bliſſing his vyſe and canny forme of doing, he prevailed ſo as I neuer ſawe ane more peaceable and ordourlye Aſſemblye in my tyme, bothe in the progreſſe and end, as it vas, and therefor vas admired and praifed of all in publique ſermones and priuat ſpeeches. The hope of taking order with Papiftis, and quyating of diſtraçiones amongst our ſelfes be Conſtant Moderators, led all menn ioyfullye your Maieſties vay, and if that courſe ſetled there be proſequute, your Maieſtye may aſſure your ſelf of pace here during our dayes; that is, if Papifts can be kept vnder be your Maieſties authoritie foundlye vſed here, and the Kirk cenſures be ſuffered to haue the awne place againſt thame, our pace will grow, ill tongues wilbe ſilenced, and all thinges will go calmly, to your Maieſties contentment. Your Maieſties glory hath bene, and is the profeſſing

and manteaning of the Gofple of Jefus Chritt; and all the world fees your Maiefties multiplyed prefermentis and preferuationes to arryfe of the prefence of Jefus, the Lord of this Gofple, with you, and to tend to the preferuation and advancement of it by your Maieftyes preferuation and advancement, tuo thinges inefparably vnitid, fence your Maieftye hade being. Lat thame, therefor, be compted your enimyes that will not conforme thame felis to it, and God fall continene his bliffing with your Maieftye, and crowne you with that incorruptible crowne of glory in the end. So moft humblye taking my leeve, I commend your Maiefties perfone, familye, kingdome, and affairis, to the bleffing of God. From Edinburgh, this 7 of Apryle 1607.

Your Maiefties awin moft humble and
affectionat feruitour,

To his Maieftie.

MR P. GALLOUAY.

L.—THE BAILLIES AND COUNCIL OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

OUR MOST GRATIOUS AND SOUERANE LORD,

Plcis your Majestie: We refauct your Majesties fecund letter the first of Apryll instant, requyring ws to direct vp wnto your Majestie Mr Peter Ewart, to the effect that, efter knowledge of the estaitt of our Kirk by him, your Majestie might returne bak wnto ws your speciall will and pleasure anent the planting thairof. We refauct also ane vther letter of befor, for directing of Mr Johne Hall or of him, to the same effect. Bot becaus that, befor the resaitt thairof, we had directit our nychtbouris Thomas Fifehear and William Speir to your Majestie, with our speciall letter, and with particular information in that mater, and with our lyttis for the plaices vacand; and als becaus that Mr Peter might not be weill spairit fra his ordinar calling, we thoecht that our Commiffioners fidd haue bein fufficient to informe your Majestie in all things, and in owr name to imbraice your Majesties will and pleasure.

Yit feing it is your Majesties pleasure to haue Mr Peter direct, we haue glaidlie obeyit, and humble submittit our felis to your Majesties desyr, nocht doubting, bot as your Majestie hes wnderstand sufficientlie be our Commiffioners the estaitt of our Town and Kirk, sua your Majestie will haue speciall regard that nane fall be plaicet amangis ws in the functioun of the Miniftrie bot sic as falbe meitt and qualifiet for the plaice, and standis in your Majesties guide favour. For our pairt, feing your Majestie hes that princelie cair of ws and our estaitt, we can nocht bot of dewtie, and in all humilitie, depend vpoun your Majesties guide will and pleasure in that and all vther things we haue to doe; quhais contentment and satisfactioun falbe to ws greitt joy and confort. Sua praying your Majestie that our Commiffioners may haue thair reddie depefche with your Majesties gracious anfuer in that and the rest of our effairs, we committ your Majestie to the protectioun of the Almightie. Frome Edinburgh, this aucht of Apryll 1607. Be

Your Maiefties maist humble and obedient subjectis,

THE BAILLIES AND COUNSALL OF THE BURGH
OF EDINBURGH.

NINIANE MAK MORAN, *Baillie.*

JAMES NISBETT, *Baillie.*

JAMES ARNOTT, *Baillie.*

MUNGO MAKCALL, *Baillie.*

To our maist gracious and Souerane Lord,
The Kingis maist excellent Maieftie.

LI.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

PLEAS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAIESTY :

Being perfwadit off your Hienes care to purge this your Maiefties kyngdome off all idolatrie, papiftrie, and off all feminareis off fals reli-

giom, haiffand your Maieftis awin command, I apprehendit ane Mefſ preift, called Sir Gilbert Makkee, and hes delyvered him faifflye from thir North partis to my Lord Chancelar off this your Hienes kyngdome. The man is nocht off any heich rank of feminareis, bot ane preift. It being the firft ſervice hes fallin in my hand, I humblye craiff your Hienes pardoun to fuller me interceid for his lyff at your Maieftis handis, and that banement furth off your Hienes dominions may be his fardeft censure at this tyme, that vtheris of that rank deſpære nocht, quhen occaſioun fall offer thame in my handis. Thus, being alwayes readye to attend your Maieftis ſervice in any thing quherin I may prove my loyalty and fidelitie, I humebly tak leiſſ, wiſhing your Hienes a long and proſperous regne heir, and that everlaſting kyngdome heirefter.

Your Hienes moſt humill and
obedient ſubject and ſeruitour,

ALEXANDER BISCHOPP OF MURRAYE.

Elgene, the penult off Apryle, 1607.

To the Kingis moſt Excellent Maieſtie.

LII.—KING JAMES TO MR JOHN CAULDCLEUCH.

JAMES R.

Truſtie and weilbeloned, We greit you weil. Whereas ſome ſpeciall directions are to be impairted vnto yow and others the Com-miſſioneris of the Generall Aſſembly, concerning the peace of that Church, and for planting of ſome of the voyde places and churches of the ſame: We haue thought meitt hereby to will and requyre you that, without anie ſubterfuge or delaye whatſoever, yow faile not to be preſent at Our Palliee of Hallyroodhous the thrid of Junij nixt, to conveyne with the reſt of the Commiſſioners, to heir Our will and pleaſure in ſuch things which at that tyme are to be impairted vnto yow. And as We

are assured of the benefyte that fall aryse to the weil and quyetnes of that Church, by the prosecuting of these Our directions, so we putt no doubt but that ye, of all others, wilbe loatheft to be absent from that meiting, wherein ye fal doe Vs acceptable pleasure and service : And fo We bid you hartylie farewell. From Our Courte at Whytehall, the thrid of Majj 1607.

To our trustye and weilbeloued
Mr Johne Cauldcleuch, Mimifter.

LIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOIST SACRED SOUERAYNE :

Vpoun the last of Apryle, which wes the dyet appointit to the Marques of Huntlie anent the affairis of the North Yllis, we had a lang dealing with him thairanent, wherin he hes gevin ws reafounable satisfactioun in all that wes demandit of him, except onlie in the yearlie dewytie¹

We looked for the Bischoppis of Abirdeyne and Murray to this dyet, according to your Maieftis directioun fend vnto thame be the Bischop of Ros, bot thay haif boith excafeit thame selfis, the ane be feiknes, and the other be some necessair impedimentis, and swa be reffoun of thair absence, and want of informatioun, we wer contrayned to superfeid all proceeding aganes the Marques anent that poynt of your Maieftis letter tuicheing his obedience to the Kirk ; and, in the meantyme, we haif fend letters to the Bischoppis, to summond the Marques to ony competent day heirefter thay pleis appoynt, at whiche tyme, yff thay compeir, we fall follow that courfe whiche your Sacred Maieftie, of your princelie wifdome, hes swa

¹ There are several letters addressed to the King on the subject of the North Isles, both from the Privy Council and the Marques of Huntley ; whose usual address to the King is, “ your most excellent, most mightie, and imperiall Majestie ;” and in one place he refers his case to King James’s “ more than supernaturall wifdome.” But these letters have no relation to Ecclesiastical affairs.

gravelie preferyvit and fett down, according to the lyght and information whiche we fall reffauc of thame.

Your Maiesties hail directionis aenit the difordourlic misbehaviour of the Synode of Perth ar dispatcheit, and we fall see thame reffauc execution accordingle. This is the accompt of oure proceedingis at this meeting.¹ And swa resting to your Maieftis anfuer aenit the Marques offer of the yearlie dewyitie, we end with oure humble and hairty prayeris to God, for your Maiefties lang, happy, and prosperous reigm. From your Maiefties Burgh of Edinburgh, the day of Majj 1607.

Your Sacred Maieftis moift humble and
obedyent subjeētis and fervitouris,

D. SCONE.	AL. CANCELL ^r .
JO. PRESTOUN.	LOTHIANE.
HALLYRUDHOUS.	

To the Kingis moift Excellent Majestie.

LIV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR.

TRAIſT FRIYNDIS :

Efter oure hairtlic commendationis, wheras the Synode of Fyffe wes appoynted to be haldin and keipit at the Burgh of Dyfert vpon the first Twyſday of Junij nixtcome; in this meantyme thair is ſpeciall directiones come from his Maieſtie for a meiting of the Commiſſion-

¹ It may be noticed, that a long letter from the Lords of Privy Council to King James, dated the 26th June 1607, concludes with the following paragraph, which fixes the date of the two letters of Robert Bruce, which are printed at pages 19—21 :—

“ According to your Maieſteis directioun, we wryte to Maister Robert Bruce for his Resolution in the mater of Gowry; whose ansuer unto vs, with his awne letter directit unto your Maieſtie, we haif heirwith send unto your Heynes. And sua craving pardoun of your Sacred Maieſtie for this oure lang letter, we end,” &c.

aris of the Generall Affembly, and some vtheris of the Ministerie, to be haldin and keipit at Haliruidhous, vpoun the thrid day of Junij nixtto-come, being the morne efter the appoynted dyet for that Synode, alweill for planting of the Kirk of Edinburgh, as for findrie vtheris materis importing the wele and goode of the Kirk, At the whilk meiting of the Commiffioneris at Halyruidhous, divers of the Ministerie of that Synode, as alwa these of his Maiefties Counsell who ar nominat Commiffionaris for his Maieftie to that Synode mon necessarlie be present: And feing both thir meitingis can not goodlie hald at ane tyme, and that this meiting appoynted be his Maieftie to be keipit at Halyrudhous may not suffer delay nor continuatioun, we haif thairfoir thought meit to prorogat and continew that Synode to the nynt day of Junij nixto-come: And thairfoir these ar to requeist and desyre you to conforme your selffis to his Maiefties will, and to the directioun of his Maiefties Counsell, in this mater, and that yee direct no Commiffionaris, nor go not your selffis to the said Synode at the first appoynted dyet, bot that yee suffer that dyet to desert, and await the occasioun of the nixt dyet, as yee respect his Maiefties obedyence and pleasour, and will anfuer vpoun the contrarie, at the heicheft perrell: And fua we commit you to God. Frome Edinburgh the xxj day of Majj 1607.

Your assured goode freyndis,

To our most traift Freyndis, the
Moderator and Brethren of the
Presbiterie of Coupar.

HAMILTON.
CAITHNES.
ABERCORNE.
ROSS.
J. SECRETAR.

LV.—THE BISHOPS TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

PLEIS YOUR LORDSHIP :

Our bowndin dewtie hairtilie rememberit, efter the dimissing of the rest of Commiffioneris, quhen we haid tane ordour for the plant-

ing of Edinburgh and the kirkis of the banifit Bretherein, according to his Maieftie his directionis, fa far as culd be done at this dyet, we wer affemblit apairt with my Lord Praefident, quho having maid ws ample relation of the conftancie of his Maiefties gratiows affection towardis ws and ewerie ane of ws, and of his princelie and fatherlie cair toward the fatling of ane folid ordour within this Kirk, for the ftrengthening of the Gofpel, and repressing of the pryde and plattis of the aduerfaries; and having lykwayis felawin ws quhat confidence his Maieftie haid in ws for the forderance of his godlic intentionis, and in his Maiefties name exhorting and ftering ws w^p to fie ane cairfulnes and diligence in al the pairtis of this miniftrie and credit, as that we myght be abil thairby, according til our dewtie, to be anfuerabil to this his Maiefties guid expectation of ws, we can nocht fuffieientlie expre quhat mater of ioy it wes til our hairtis, and of thankfgiving wnto God; and quhat ane fpur to fervencie and fordwartnes in our callingis; in fie fort, that evin then we refoluit, befor our diffolving, to conclud and condifcend wpon the beft and maift effectual cowrfe that myght forder this fervice, with folemne attestationis that we fuld nocht be fownd in ony wayis remis, fa far as it fuld pleis the Lord to enable ws, and affift be his grace. Quhairanent we mon confes my Lord Praefident¹ hes bein wnto ws a verie great help, alfwel in laying down the groundis of our proceedingis, as in ftering ws w^p to panefulnes and diligence; fo that we cannot but giwe his Maieftie hairtliche thankis for employing fo meit ane inftrument to affift our guid cowrtis in your Lordfchips abfence. In fpecial we haue agreit, that the hail countrey being devydit in pairtis according til our number, ewerie ane of ws fal haue ane feereit oversight and cair of ane feneral pairt, and, without refpect of travelis or expentis, we falbe cairful, from owk til owk,² til informe our fellis perfyttlie anent the eftait, aetionis, and plattis of al the Prefbitereis and Paftoris within the boundis of the pairt committit til ewerie ane of ws, and ewerie fex weikis, anis at the leift, and offer³ *pro re nata*, we haue appoyntit to keip ane meting of the hail number, or of the maift pairt of ws, quhair we intend to communicat our intelligence mutuallie, and to confult wpon the maift expedient way to diflipat and

¹ Lord Balmerino.² *From owk til owk*, week to week.³ *Offer*, oftner.

frustrat the plattis and purpofis of the turbulent, that the guid and peaciable be nocht ouerthrowin nor discouragit, not thair calme and godlie courfis interruptit; and, as we find any occafion of importance, your Lordfchip falbe aduertifit thairof, Godwilling, from our faid metingis, for his Maiefties informatioun. By and atouer this general, we haue, with lang deliberatioun, confidderit quhat is maift requifit for his Maiefties fervice, and the weil of the Kirk, to be done concerning this nixt Affemblic; and as we find his Maieftie hes thought it requifit that the fame be continowit for ane certane tyme, fa hane we all feie evidentlie the neceffitie thairof, and thairfoir wiffis the intimatioun of the faid continuatioun to be publifit by Proclamatioun, according as his Maieftie hes determinit, and the cauffis of the continuatioun to be, as heir is fubfcriyvit, in this or the lyk narratiue:

FORALSMEKIL as His Maieftie, wnderftanding quhat great inconuenientis the diffentiounis amongis the Miniftrie within this kingdome broglt with thame, to the hinderance of the progres of the Gofpel, the difhonour of thair profeffioun, and strengthning of the hand of the enimey, hes thairfoir, of his princelie and fatherlie cair and affection toward the promotioun of the Gofpel, and weil of this Kirk, affeyt mony and diueris meanis to quenche al fyre of difuifion among the faid Miniftrie, and reduce thame to the vnitie of ane mynd and affection; and at laft appoyntit ane graue, frequent, and frie Affemblic, to be holdin at Lythgow, in December laft, of ane great number of the maift godlie, zealous, and weil affectit of the Nobilitie, Counfail, and Barronis, from all the diueris partis of the countrey, as alfo of the maift learnit, godlie, wyfe, graue, and of beft experience of the miniftrie, from al the Presbyteries in great number; be quhaus travelis, cair, and wifdome, everie occafion and pretext of greif wes in fic godlines and moderatioun remouit, that as his Maieftie fand thairin contentment, fo wes al the Conclufiounis of the faid Affemblic paffit with great applaus, and for a tyme great thankis to God and praisis givin to his Maieftie publicklye in the maift famous congregatiounis of the hail countreye, with great expectatioun that from that furth, through the keeping of the Conclufiounis of the faid Affemblic, nathing fuld be found in the Metingis of the Miniftrie but vnitie, peace, and lowe. Quhair-

wpon it wes agreit and concludit, by his Maiefties warrand and allowance, that the nixt General Affemblic fuld convein and hold at Halirudhowfe, the laft Twyſday of Julie nixtoem: But finding the event fo contrarious til al that wes appearand and lookit for, and that through the buſines of ſum evil diſpoſit, turbulent, and contentions ſpreittis, the godlie proceedingis of the ſaid Affemblic ar tradneit and browght in contempt; and in diueris places na obedience, but plane oppoſitioun and reſiſtance maid to the Actis thairof; quhairthrow not onlie thair is caws of offence givin to his Maieſtie, bot likwayis ſie diſtraſtiounis and exacerbatioun of myndis enterit amongis the Miniſteris, as culd bring na wther effectis bot ſie as fuld be ane henderance to the Goſpel, ane ſklander and occaſioun of forder diviſioun and ſtryf amongis thamſelfis, and ane confirmatioun of the adnerſareis, incias any General Affemblic of tham fuld be holdin beſoir that ſum dew and lawful preparatioun wer firſt maid for removing of thair diſtraſtiounis, and bringing of thame to ane harmony of myndis; for effectuating quhairof, his Maieſtie hes found it expedient that the hail Provincial Affemblics within the cuntrey fuld be holdin at thair ordinarie places of meting the day of Auguſt nixt, and that in euerie ane of the ſaid Affemblics thair be choſin tway of the maift godlie, peaceable, wyſe, graue, and of beſt experience, with power and commiſſioun to convein at Halirudhous the day of nixtoem, with the remnant Commiſſioneris of the provinces, and with the Commiſſioneris of the General Affemblic, and ſie of his Maieſties Counſail as it ſal pleis his Maieſtie to nominat for that effect; and thair to confer, reaſoun, and conclud, with comoun advyſe, wpon the maift convenient remedeis aganis the evilis that, through laik of ſufficient preparatioun, myght ſal owt at the ſaid General Affemblic; that thairefter the Affemblic may be holdin and kepit in ſie ane peaciabe and godlie maner as myght bring ane trew comfort to the godlie, and ane terror to the wikit: And in the meantyme, that the General Affemblic quhilk wes at Lythgow appoyntit to be holdin at Halyrudhowfe the laſt Twyſday of Julie, be continowit till the day of nixtoem; and that na perſoun preſume to keip the ſaid Affemblic, quhill firſt this preparatioun haue paſſit beſoir.

Wpon this or the lyk narrative,¹ bearing the fame causis, the charge in the Proclamation wald be foundit. Quhat hes bein done be ws and the rest of the Commissiouneris anent the planting of the Kirk of Edinburgh, and the kirkis of the Bretheren that ar banifit, as lykwayis in the Visitationn of the Vniuersitie of Sanctandros, we remit til our vther letteris fend wp in this packit. So praying earnestlie to God for the lang continouance of your Lordships guid estait, and ineres of all bliffingis, we humblie tak our leive, and rests,

Your Lordships verie affiurit to the
wttermoift of thair poweris,

ROSS.	CATTNES.	SANCTANDROS.
BREICHIN.	AN. YLES.	

Haliruidhows, the awcht of June 1607 yeir.

To my honourabill guid Lord, The Earle of Downbar.

LVI.—THE BISHOP OF ROSS TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE :

Sehortlie efter my haim cunning, I delyuerit your Hines letter to my Lord Comptroller, quha gifis me gend anfuersis, and fayis, he will fatiffie your Maiefties defyre anent this penfion of Ferne ; as also your Majesties vther letter to my Lord Chancelour about the gift of the Thridis of Ross. I find ther will be great oppositioun, becaus, as is allegit, it hes bein at all tymis the fie of the Clerk of the Collectorie, and your Maieftie hes dispoit that office, with the fie pertening therto,

¹ A Proclamation to the above effect, "proroguing the General Assembly indieted at Linlithgow to be halden at Halirudhous, the last Tuesday of July," was accordingly issued. It is dated at Greenwich, 24th May [June] 1607 ; and Calderwood says it was proclaimed at the Cross of Edinburgh, on the penult of June.—(History, vol. vi. p. 663.)

to Mr Jhone Droumond.¹ I teuk aduysfe of my Lord Aduocat, quhom I find verie willing to do quhat he can to forder your Maiefties geud intentioun. He feiris, gif the actioun cum in befor the Sessioun, it will gang against me, and therfor thinkis best, feing ther is yit restis of the Thridis in the Colletours handis, that fa mekill may be taikin therof as may reasonable serue the said office, and that it micht pleis your Maieftie, be your letter, to signifie the sam to the Chancelour. I meift heumble gif thankis to your Maieftie, for the geud remembrance of my petitioun, for the satisfiactioun of my Lord of Killofs, for his tak of Tarbett, and I am informit that now the heill is in your Hienes handis; and the gentill woman, that baith my Lord of Obenzie and I did for, is willing to gif ane reasonable deutie for reneuing of hir takis, without diminution of the rentell. Leauing to trouble your Maieftie vith farder, my daylie prayer fall be, to craiue ane lang and prosperous increes, vith the fauorable protection of God to your Hienes. From Leith, this 17 of Junij [1607.]²

Your Maiefties maift heumble subiect,

To the Kingis Maieftie.

Ross.

LVII.—THE BISHOP OF THE ISLES TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR SACREDE MAIESTIE :

As laitlie I caufed present to your Hienes, according to my bund deutie, the present estait of your Maiefties West Ylandis, togidder with the cauffis of the inordinat leuing of that pepill, as I learned the fame

¹ The "Ratification of Master John Drummond, Servitor to Alexander Earl of Dumfurling, of his office of Clerkship." was confirmed by Parliament, on the 9th July 1606. —(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv. p. 319.)

² This letter has been placed under the year 1607, as it probably was the favourable answer from the King to this request that drew forth the Bishop's acknowledgment, on the 17th September, that year: See No. LXVIII. The Annexation of Ferne to the Bishoprick of Ross, was afterwards confirmed by an Act of Parliament, 24th June 1609.

to be of treuth, bothe be sight and experience: So now, heiring that your Maieftie wes moved to doubt of the veritie of sum assertions in that my letter, albeit a litill tyme hes and will try farther the vndoubted treuth of everie poynt thair of; yit I maist humblie besek your Maieftie, that if your Hienes mistrust any thing writtin be me, that it may please your Maieftie to lat the treuthe of the same be tryed, ather in your Hienes awin prefens, or ellis be sick Commissionaris as fall please your Maieftie appoynt, before whome, I think, God willing, being requyred to lat the treuthe be knowne, and, if it fall seme expedient to your Maieftie, fall mak manifest ma causis of the present misfordour of that peopill, and the richt way by the which experience fall prove the same false maist easilie remedid, and these folkis put to that pace and reformation which your Maieftie craves. As to the remedie of my inhabilit estait, I refer it to that cairfull regaird which your Maieftie hes evir had of all your servandis, and speecialie of our calling, and to the humble sute maid to your Maieftie be my Bretheren. Praying the Father of Licht to mak the treuthe till appeir to your Maieftie in all thingis, and to preferue your Royall persoun from danger of bodie and faule, with the blessing of a long and prosperous regne.

Your Maiefties albeit vnworthie yit
maist addicit oratour and servand.

Edinbrugh, the xxvij of Junij 1607.

AN. ISLES.

To the King his most Excellent Maieftie.

LVIII.—THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

According to your Maiefties direction, we haif examined M^rkie the preift, first be our selfis, vpon such groundis, presumptionis, and constructionis as we could collect and gadder for the discoverye of

his doings; and now sentyne, be the concurrence and presence of the Bishop of Murray, vpon suche informationis and groundis as he layed down vnto ws, and vpon certane obscure and ambiguous sentences specificit in twa of his writtings producit be the Bishop: The ane writtin to his Generall in Rome, and the vther to Maister Robert Abircrumby. We haif heirwith send vnto your Sacred Maiestie his depositionis, that, efter consideration thairof, it may pleis your Heynes gif direction to your Maiesteis Counsell what forder your Maiestie will haif to be done with him. He is ane simpill, ignorant man, constant in his awne errour, bot no practizair nor busy body, sa fer as we can leirne or try of him. Alwayes remitting him to your Maiesteis princelie censure, and remembering our dewtifull affection to vndergo whatsomeuir burdine or seruice it fall pleis your Sacred Maiestie lay vpon ws, we end, with our hairty prayeris to God for your Maiesteis lang, happy, and prosperous reign. Frome your Maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the thrid day of Julij 1607.

Your Maiesteis moift humble and obedyent
subiectis and seruitouris, &c.

S. IOHNE SKENE.

LOTHLANE.

JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis moift Excellent Maiestie.

LIX.—THE BISHOP OF GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUVERANE:

May it pleis your moift Excellent Maiestie: My Lord Marques of Hammiltoun refawing of lait ane letter from your Henes, aquentit me thairwith, schawing to me that, as his Lordship haid moift iust cause to rander hartlie and humbill thankis to your Maiestie, so cairfull of him, lest to your Henes favorabill protectione be my Lord his winghill father, of guid memorie, (ane, I man say, of the moft faithfull and affec-

tionat quha ewer farwit your Maieftie), fo haid his Lordfhip occafione to marwell of your Henes motiue to direct speciale for his Lordfhips companie in his traweling out of the cuntrie, as if thair haid beine ane caufe to fufpect any of thois gentilmen quha war to farwe his Lordfhip, speciale in thair religione. His Lordfhip askit me, if I haid any futehe motioum quhan I reparit laft towardis your Maieftie. I affurit his Lordfhip, as the treuthe was, thair was no futehe fpeitche; bot that in my laft fpeitche to your Henes concerning my Lord Marques, I refolwit your Maieftie of his Lordfhips refolutione conftantlie to keipe his groundis, in this following the wurthie exampill of his Lordfhips wunquhill Father; firft, faithfullie to ferwe his God, nixt, in all loyaltie, your Henes. His Lordfhip judgeine than your Maieftie to haif beine iwil informit of his Lordfhips felf, as alfo of thois gentilmen quha war to be with his Lordfhip, be fun biffie bodeis, enemies to his Lordfhip, defyrit me ernestlie (as yeit refident Minifter heir, and ane quhais dewtie was to witnes the trewtche), wpon certan knowledge and trayell, efter conference and wtharwayis alfo, boithe of his Lordfhips awin difpofitione, and thair affectione to the religione profeffit presentlie, to purge his Lordfhip of that quhilk he accomptis as speciall, of any fufpitione in his Lordfhips religione. It is ane mater of gryt and juft greif to his Lordfhip that any, howbeit malicius and partecular, fould haif in his religione, without caufe, taxit his Lordfhip, or gewin your Henes any occafione to fufpect his Lordfhip. God willing, his Lordfhips conftancie in his abfence, togither with his Lordfhips religius behavior, fall convince thois misreporteris; and I houpe the Kirk of God heir fall haif occafione to praife God for his Lordfhip. The twa gentilmen tchofine to be with his Lordfhip, Sir Jhone Hammiltoun and Robert Cuninghame, art approwin men, quha hes to my felf often confeffit in conference that his Lordfhips gryteft honor, quha reftis now with God, [was] his conftancie in the profeffione of the trew religione, quhilk maid the Loird wifible to blifs hime and his Lordfhips houfe. Thir gentilmen art affectionat to your Maiefties farwice and obedience, and lowaris of my Lord Marques, bothe in faull and bodie. I houpe my witniffing of the trewtche, wpon certan knowledge, fal prewaill at your Henes handis, quha hes newer beine accustomit to condemne any wpon the firft repoint, speciale quhair

thair was nether warrand nor apperance. The yong Nobilman hime self wald be your Maiesties letter be incuragit. Thus daly frome my hart praying for helthe, prosperitie, and longe lyfe to your Henes, frome God, I rest,

Your Maiesties most humbill ferwitor
and daly orator,

Hammiltoun, the 12 of July 1607.

B. GALLOWAY.

To the King his most Sacreid Maiestie.

LX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES VI.

SACRED SOVERANE,

May [it] pleis your most Excellent Maiestie: I am bald to propone my adhyfe to your Maiestie, that since now thair is ane Parliament, and your Maiestie hes thocht meit be degreis to accomplishe your Maiesteis just detignament anent our Kirk Pollicie, that some progres may be maid at this present; the same quhairof I refer to these two Articulis which I haif indyted, and send to your Hyenes, that these may be inacted in this your Hyenes Parliament. I presume thus to inpashe your Maiestie, that no occasione of advantage may be slipped; and I wald wis that your Maiestie wald returne directioun of these two Articulis with all possibill expeditione.

I reslaunt from your Maiestie ane directioun anent Mr William Scott, Minister at Cowpar, that the Bischop of Dunkeld, the Lord of Scone, and I, fuld report to your Maiestie, quhidder his prefens heir might be beneficiall to the peace of the Kirk and your Hyenes service, that thairvpon your Maiestie mycht prorogat his licence of abyding heir vpon our gude reporte. Sir, if I hade bene put in trust allone, I wold be hold to returne my seruice; for I protest I stand in awe of none, bot of God and the Kinge. My Lord of Dunkeld is feik and

bedfast; the Lord of Scone is thair. I presume, in thair absence, most hovmblie vpon my knees, to beg of your Maieftie, that since Mr William Scot is come thither, he may haif of your Maieftie prorogatioun of his remaning heir till some reasonable day, that may gif occasioun to ws to explore his difpositioun and vseage in suche fort as we may gif vpon good grundis in sufficient report to your Hyenes, which may moue your Maieftie to continew him heir, or remove him. Thus, for the present, it may pleis your Hyenes to gif him a Superfidere in write, with suche confyning as your Hyenes thinkis meittest for ane vntryed man. Sir, I yarne to fie the day quhairin the veritie of Kirk Governament may be discussid, and explaned to the Estates of this Kingdome, quhairin I offer no les preff then my place is; and this I think the fittest meane for fetling the estate of this Kirk. I hummelie tak my leve, and with all affectione recommendis that facred perfoun, in bodye, faull, and governament to Goddis his grace and blessed protectione, and fall remane,

Pleis your Maieftie, send preceise directioun anent the ranking of the Archbischopes with the Nobilitie, and of the Bischopes, and to gif ordour, in the auld Scottische forme, or Inglishche maner, as your Maiesteis incomparabil wisdome sall command as fittest.

Your Maiesteis most hoomble and
most obedient fervand and orator.

SANCTANDROIS.

St Androis, 20 Julij 1607.

To the King his most Excellent Maieftie.

LXI.—MR ROBERT HOWYE, PRINCIPAL OF THE NEW COLLEGE
ST ANDREWS, TO KING JAMES.

SACRADE SOVERANE,

May it please your most Excellent Maieftie, as no thing hath bene moir deir to me, nixt God, then your Maiefties royall perfoun, estait.

and the furtherance of your Maiesties wyfe and princely designementis in our Church Governement, quhairin I haue nocht only followed your Maiestie in all sinceritie (nochtwithstanding of any misconstruction in the contrar, which I hope God, in his owne tyme, will disclose), bot also the licht of God, and of my owne conscience: so I haue, at your Maiesties direction and commandement, vndertakin this Provestrie of the New Colledge,¹ a wark full of difficultie and invy, wherin I haue no assured stay, but your Maiesties onchengeabill favour and countenance to me, so long as I continew your Maiesties faithfull servand. My case wes quyet and welthe, estir the favour of this cuntrie. Now, the zeale of your Hienes service hath enforced me to forsake my calme, and to committ me to the hazard of most violent tempestis. Sir, for my honest service done, and to be done, I crave no moir, bot that your Maiestie will command that I may haue formall surety of this place, according to the common ordour, and nocht to be a vicar or a deput for ane interim, since my hart is devoted, bothe in my owne actiones and in informatioun of this Seminarie of the youth, the promotioun of your Maiesties honour, assecuratioun, and service, with most vpricht affectioun. And, Sir, I will nocht dissembill to your Maiestie, I will be moir frank and forward to tak hazard in your Hienes service, when I haue ane formall provisioun, then when I haue only a chengeabill place.² Thus, referring to your Maiesties incomparable wisdom, to gif ordour to my Lord Archbithope of St Androis (whome I present as my surety in the premises), and remanent Visitouris; I beseeche God blis your Maiesties most excellent perform, estait, and progenie, for ever more, and fall remane

Your Maiesties most humble
servand and devoted oratour,

Edr 9 Augth 1607.

M. ROBERT HOWYE.

To the King his most Excellent Maiestie.

¹ Howye had been translated from Dundee to St Andrews to succeed Andrew Melville, who was then confined in the Tower of London, and was afterwards banished to France.

² See *infra*, p. 118, and Calderwood's History, vol. vi. p. 668, respecting the terms of Howye's induction as Principal of the New Colledge, St Andrews.

LXII.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

SIRE,

Vpon the end of this Sessioun of Parliament, we met together, and in advyfing of fuche thingis as belonge to the profequitioun of your Maiefties fervice, in the effairis of the Churche, we fel vpon two or thre particularis that requyre your Maiefties awyfe and gracioufe confideratioun. A warrand hes ben presentit from your Hienes to reform the Commiffioun grantit in the laft Parliament for modefeing of constant ftipendis to the erectit churchis, quhiche is fo takin as if your Maieftie wald haif fum two mo of the Noblemen ekit to the Commiffioun, and the number of the Temporal and Spiritual State maid vnequal. Albeit the occafioun of this, arying of the Erle of Montroffe his feiknes, who wes then one of the Quorum, it apperis to ws, that your Hienes intention is onlie to remuif the impediment quhiche that worke might refuif throw his difeafe, or the lyk incident, and to haif one of the thre nominated in the warrand, to fill his rowin, and, ineece of thair abfence or feiknes, another to fupply the place, and fo the worke to go fordward. At the firft, we opponit as we culd, fehewing how vnreasonable it wes to vrge our content in the alienatioun of the Teindis from the Churche perpetuallie, and to content fo mony Churehis with a fmal provifioun to every of tham out of the fam, beyond quhiche no thing culd be heirafter defyrit: and not to admit ane equal number of ws in the making of this bargain: but being fraitit be the warrand, we haif yeildit to the forming of a commiffioun according thairto, and referrit the interpretatioun of the fam to your moft Sacred Maieftie, quhiche we ar affurit wilbe maif favorable and beninge towardis ws; for nether feik we to mak your Maiefties grant ineffectual to ony that wil perform the conditionis promifit, nor haif we fehewit our felfis ony way vnreasonable in the modificatioun intendit, but haif offerit, and yit offeris, to accept ony mean provifioun that falbe fund fufficient to entertaine a minifter at every Churche, according to the qualitie thairof: And if we falbe fund to do otherwyfe, we ar humblie to fubmit our felfis to your Maiefties censure.

and content to losse that credit quliche we haif of your Hienes, quhairof we falbe, with Godis helpe, more carfull, than of our lyfis. But what reafoun we haif to be circumfpect in this bufines, no man living knowis fo wel as your Maiefties self, whose care towardis the Church, and the releif of the povertie and beggerlie estait of our Ministrie, hes so many wayis apperit, that the posteritie wil judge this to haif ben not the least parte of our happines, vnder your Hienes, our most gracionse Lord and Sovereigne.

Now, Sir, forasmuche as this Modification is differrit to the first of November nexte, and this our advertisment is maid only to prevent the informationis that might be in our prejudice, we humbly intreat your Maieftie to continew al furder directionis in this erand, to the tym that your Hienes, be sum one of our number, be more particularly informit of those materis. And because we hear, to our grit sorow, that Mr James Nicolfoun, Bifhop of Dunkeld, is not likly to recover of his seiknes, we beseeche your Maieftie to kepe the place to sum one that, with al our advyses, falbe thought fitteft to fil it, in case of his decease; for albeit we fal not find any that is able to supplie it, when we remember his singular giftis; yit, Sir, as we tender the service, so must we be fet to choyse him that is fitteft, we suld say, Sir, to present, in al humblenes to your Maieftie, him whom we wold think fitteft to be preferred be your Maieftie to that rowm. We ar furder to entreat your Highnes in the behalf of Mr Robert Wallace,¹ that be your Maiefties gracionse favoure, he may be permittit to return to his paroch of Tranent, and vnder condition that he fal in his sermons no way medle with any thing twiching the estait, nor otherwyse muif any vnquyetnes in the Church, be sufferit to teache thair, and remain, confynit, during your Maiefties gud plesure. Pleife your Maieftie, we ar drawin to this intercession vpon special promitis of thair that, we trust, hes credit to perform. And for that quliche restis, Sir, as we al vpon our kneis do render to your Maieftie most humble and heartie thankis for your Hienes constant and vnechangeable favour towardis us, your vnworthie servants, so do we promise, with all dutiful affection, vnanimlie to go on in your Maiefties

¹ Wallace was one of the eight ministers who were called to the Conference at Hampton Court, in September 1606. See *supra*, pp. 59—67.

service, without regard of our felis, or ony inconvenient quhatfumevir, fo as we pray the Almyghtie to bleffe your Highnes with a longe and prosperoufe reigne, and restis,

Your Maiesties most humble
and obedient fervantis,¹

Pleis your Maiestie, my Lord of Abirden
hes satisfieit ws al abundantlie.²

MURRAY.	SANCTANDROIS.
GALLOWAY.	GLASGOW.
DUNBLANEN.	ABIRDEIN.

To the King his most Excellent Maiestie.

LXIII.—THE BISHOP OF ABERDEEN TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERANE,

It may please your most Excellent Maiestie : Vpon the hard information which your Maiestie receaved anent my cariage in the effairis of the Church and your Maiesties service, it pleased your Maiestie to direct the Counfall to call me to my compt ; which I with verie gude will, in all humilitie, gave to my Lordis Chancellar and Prefident, with the gryttest number of the Bischopes heir asssembled, to whome, I hope, I haue gevin such satisfiatioun as will liberat me from any wilfull offence. And if I have nocht (beand now of goode eage and infirm) vtered sick fordwardnes as the present service requyres, I mynd, by the grace of God, to be cairfull to please your Maiestie, and serue in this calling, with als goode hart and affectioun, as any of my equalis, according to the mea-

¹ This letter is wholly in Spottiswood's handwriting. It has no date, but the reference to Nicolson, Bishop of Dunkeld, who died on the 16th August 1607, serves to fix the date. It is indorsed :—“ B.B. anent ane Commissione giwen for modificatione of Stipendes to ministeris : anent the filling of Mr James Niccolsones pleace of the Bischoprick of Dunkeld.”

² Mr Peter Blackburne : see the following letter.

fiure of grace and habilitie God hes bestowed vpon me. And as at this present Parliament I haue nocht bene deficient in any goode seruice, fua your Maieftie may expect of me that, in all seruiceis competent to my place, I will refufe no burding that my mene habilitie is habill to accomplifh. Thus the God everlefing blis your Maieftie in perfoun, eftait, and gouernement for euir, and fall remane,

Your Maiefties moft humble feruand
and affectioned oratour,

To his moft Sacred Maieftie.

PETIR, BISHOP OF ABERDEIN.¹

LXIV.—THE EARL OF ABERCORNE TO KING JAMES.

IT MAY PLEIS YOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE :

Haueing reffauit your Hienes letter about the 24 of Julij, commanding me to attend the Synode of Clyddifdail, the fourt of Auguff, quhilck being continewit to the 18 be reafone of the Parliament, I did direct my particular letters to everie Presbyterie, willing thame folemplic to keip the fyft of Auguff with their flockis, gifing thankis to God (as moft iuftlie we haid all reafoune, in memorie of fua grit and bliffing as God, in his mercie, did grant wnto ws all your Maiefties fubjectis), by your Hienes happie prefervatioun frome that abhominabill and moft treasonabill Conspiracie at Perth; quhilck thay moft willinglie obeyit. Also, I cauffit this haill countrey (fpeciallie thefe quhomic off I haid commandement, off all Effaittis) mak fyreis of joy, with all wther lauchfull takynis off glaidnes. The 18 day, according to your Maiefties direccioun, I did keip the Synode convent at Glasgw, and requyreit thame, according to the Act at Lynlythgew (quhilck I produceit, and cauffit reid wnto thame), that thay wald admit the Archebifchope of Glasgw thair

¹ This letter is indorsed,—“Blakburne B. of Abirdein excusses him selfe for his bypast slaknes in his Maiesties serwyce, and promisses greater fraknes in tymes cuning.”—The postscript to the preceding letter, enables us to assign the date of this letter to August 1607.

Moderator; quhairinto, in the beginning, thay maid greit oppositioun, alleging the Act nocht to have bene concludit in forme, as was thair gifin out, and that the Moderators of Presbytereis wer aggreit vpon, to continew for a tyme in the perfounes of thame that wer thair nominat; bot that of the Moderatione of Synoddis no thing haid bene spokin. Quhairunto I repleit, that to be ane accufatioun of honest men, nanelie, the Moderator and Clerk of the Assëmblic, wnder quhais handis the fame wes extractit, quhilk being verifeit, wald mak them infamous, and put thair lyffis in your Maiesteis handis: Thairfoir, giff onie wald directlie allege it to be fals, and tak wpon him the improbatioun of the fame, I wald, according to my place and power grantit to me be your Maieftie, mak thame fast wntill thay maid gude thair persuite and allegiance. Quhairupoun thai fell from the said challenge, and desyreit a continewatioune of materis to sum schort dyet, that thai mycht be advyffit quhat to do. But I denyit onie sic pouer to be gevin me be your Maieftie; and that I wald nocht go ane poynt beyond my directiounes. So as, in end, fynding thame felfis straittit with a present aunfuer, and having signifeit to thame quhat command I haid for denouncing thame rebellis, and dissolving the Synode in cais of disobedienc, thay put foure of thair number vponne the lyttis, and the Archebyschop being removit by him self, the questioun wes movit, quhidder thai wald accept him according to your Maiesteis desyre, or proceid to the electioun of ane of thair awin lyttis, as thai haid bene accustomit. The haill Synode (tua onlie exceptit), voittit to his acceptatioun. The tua wer Maister William Simfoun, minister of Dunbartan, and Mr Edward Bryce, minister at Drymmen. Mr William Simfoun departit from the Assëmblic quhen he saw the admiffioun to proceid, with thir wordis, “ That he wald nocht remaine in Assëmblic that was moderatit be ane Byfchop,” and went away, without returning. This endit, and the Archebyschop haueing acceptit the Moderatioun of the Synode, chois wes maid of tua of thair number to keipe the Colloque at Halyrudhous the first of September, nanelie, Mr Johnne Hay and Mr William Birney. Inquirie wes also maid of the diligence of the Presbytereis in the persewing of Papistis, according to your Hienes ordinance; and quhat remainnit in thair censures amangis thame felfis, and wtheris thair affaires, wes with greit calmnes,

and an univcrfall lykeing of all that number, fo handillit, that the moift fernpalous amangest thame wer verie weill fatisfeit, and na Affemblic this lang tyme keippit in better ordour, to all thair contentmentis; and that fpeciallic be the Archbychop, then Moderator, his prudent and grave government; fwa that heirefter I hoipe, quhair thair falbe fiche eftablifhed to rewill and moderat wnder your Maieftie, your Hienes, in all tymes heirefter, fall nocht haue neccffitie of Commiffioners, bot raipe the frute of your Maiefties langfum travellis. I pray God furnifche to your Maieftie mony lyke to him, haueing equall knowledge, with no les affectionne. As for my fellf, it has fua pleifit God (nochtwithftanding of my waiknes) to blis your Maiefties litle fervices at all tymes committed by your Hienes to my charge, that it hes emboldnit me to offer my fellf of new, with no les affectionne, nor onie your Maiefties fubiect, to quhatfum-ever fervice I falbe habill to difcharge, beleafing thair falbe found verie few, or none, to withftand your Maiefties commandementis that ar ever fein to be godlic and moift reafonabill. It may pleis your Maieftie to pardone me, iff I do feme over prolix to your Hienes in this letter. The defyre I haue to gifft compt of all, conforme to the treuth, is my beft excuifs. I haue alfo heirwith fent to your Hienes the extract of the Act. Thus, beging at God to your Maieftie lang dayeis, with increas of all happines, and full accomplifhement to your Hienes greateft contentment of all your Graces moift princelic defignes, I remaine for ever.

Your Maiefties moift humbill, obedient,
and affectionat fubiect and fervitoure.

Blakifoun, the 26 off Augult 1607.

ABERCORNE.

To his moift Sacred Maieftie.

LXV.—THE BAILLIES AND COUNCIL OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

OUR MAIST GRACIOUS SOUVERAINE LORD,

As we haue ewer beine band to your Maiefties fervice beyond mony vther of your Maiefties fubiectis, for the fingular cair your Ma-

iestie hes ewer haid, baith present and absent, of our estait and weilfair, Swa we haue maist speeciall caus to rander your Maiestie maist humble seruice and thankis for the particular cair of plantationne of our Kirk with sufficient Pastouris. According to the quhilk it pleased your Maiestie to caus ws direct our letters to Mr Gilbert Prynrois, minister at Burdeaux, authorizit with your Maiesties particular letter to him ; with the quhilk we ressaunt our ansuer fra him of his guidwill thairto, desyring onlie ane continuationne to ane Conventiounne of the Kirk of France at Rochell.¹ To the quhilk Conventiounne we also wrett our particular letters, suiting him to be our Pastour. Sen the quhilk tyne that mater hes sleiped till now. The said Mr Gilbert hes, efter he conferrit with your Maiestie, cum to ws, thinking to haue beine fred of his former promeis ; bot we, reposing wpone your Maiesties lyking of him, hes mair straitlie wrgit him with his former promeis : quhilk we think guidlie he cannot eschew in conscience. And thairfoire, feing he is now to returne to your Maiestie, we ar maist earnestlie to intreat your Maiestie to insitt with him to accept this charge, quhairunto he hes beine vrged be your Maiestie and ws of before, and be your autoritie to command him seriousslie to that effect : Quhilk giue your Maiestie do, we doubt not bot he fall accept the samen, and we houpe, be the grace of God, he falbe able to pleas your Maiestie, and edifie his flock. And swa reposing vpone your Maiesties guid acceptationne of this our humble and lauchfull request, we commit your Maiestie to the proteccionne of the Almiehtie.

Your Maiesties maist humble and obedient subiectis,

THE PROWEST, BAILLIES, AND COUNSELL OFF EDINBURGH.

NINIANE MAKMORAN, *Baillie*.

JAMES NISBETT, *Baillie*.

JAMES ARNOTT, *Baillie*.

Edinburgh, this fourt of September 1607.

To our most Gracious and dread Souerane.

¹ The proposed settlement of Primrose, as one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, was brought before the Synod of Rochell, in March 1607, (Quick's Synodicon in Gallia Reformata, vol. i. p. 289.)

LXVI.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

We have presumed vpon your Maieftis most grations acceptance of all our motionis for the advancement of your Maieftis seruice, to lay befor your Maieftie the goode officeis done by your Maieftis Secretary,¹ since his particulair employment in oure affairis: And as we render your Maieftie most humble thankis for your Maieftis princelie regard of him in a particulair he had thair, wherin he acknowledgeis him selfe infinitlie bound to your Maieftie, and moir nor sufficientlie recompensit for all the seruice he is able to do; so we ar bolde to intreate your Maieftie for him in thir Ereccionis your Maieftie hes vouchaiffed vpon him and his Sone, that since thay ar the most vnworthie beneficeis, and most miserable dilapidat, and he is content to deale moir beneficiallie with his Ministeris in the planting of his kirkis, nor otheris who reportis by a hundrethe parte greatair commoditie, since for thair provisioun the Spiritualitie not being sufficient, he is content oute of the litill thing that restis of the Temporalitie to fie his kirkis sufficientlie provydit: that in the blanche dewytie your Maieftie wilbe pleait to haif that regard to him, as he may be encourageit constantlie to go on with ws in the course of your Maieftis seruice: And otheris, by his exampill of your Maieftis favour, may not onlie gif ws thair assistance, whereof we haif hithertillis found bot small frutes, bot lykewayes deale moir liberallie in the provisioun of thair Kirkis. Thus, not doubting bot your Maieftie will accept in goode part oure presumption, tending to no other end bot the goode of your seruice, wherunto your Maieftis exceeding favour towardis ws hes so fermelie bound ws, and wherin we fall spend our lyveis, and whatsoeuer graceis God hes bestowit vpon ws, in all

¹ Mr James Elphinstone, third son of Robert Lord Elphinstone, became Secretary in 1597, and President of the Court of Session in 1605. He had been raised to the Peerage, as Lord Balmerinoch, in 1601; and, in token of the King's continued favour (which he afterwards forfeited), the two Abbacies of Balmerinoch and Cupar in Fife, were erected into Temporal Lordships in his favour.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv. pp. 340, 341.)

humilitie we committ your Maieftie, faull and body, to Godis holie protectioun. Frome your Maiefteis burgh of Edinburgh, the fourte day of September 1607.

Your Maiefteis moft humble and obeydent
fubicētis and feruitouris,

AN. ISLES.

SANCTANDROIS.

B. GALLOWAY.

GLASGOW.

JA. B. OF ORKNAY.

M. A. BRECHIN.

To the Kingis moft Excellent Maieftie.

LXVII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

May it pleis your moft excellent Maieftie: I tak the boldnes, befide the commoun recommendatioun fent be our Eltate¹ to your Hyenes in fauor of your Maiefteis faithfull fervand, and our moft fpeciall and trustie freynd, your Hyenes Secretare, my Lord of Balmerrinoche, to declair the great fauor that I find in all my aētiōnes in Seffiōnn, and els where, that in the raritie of trew fervandis, and frequencie of prevaricatiōnes, your Maieftie may mak this man fure to continew as he is begun; for if it hade bene no moir than this Affemblic of Fyff, it wold mak manifēt, that quhair one dois fordwart and onefold feruice, tuo ar perfunctorious. I wes not prefent at this Colloque, for I wes, as I am yit, bound to my bed; bot I houþ fchortlie, be Godis grace, to recover ftrength for your Maiefties feruice, whiche in my verie death (if fo it fall pleis God) fall be precious to me. I am bold to prefent certane Memoiris² to your Maieftie, and moft humble to befecche your Hyenes for fuche tymous anfwer as your Maiefties incomparabill wifdome

¹ In the preceding letter, No. LXVI.

² The "Memoiris" here referred to are not preserved along with this letter.

shall think meittest to direct. Thus, referring to the sufficiency and fidelitie of my Lord, the bearer heirof, I commit, in my hartelic prayeris, your Hienes person, estate, and government, to the gracious blessing and protectione of the Almighty. I abyde

Your Maiesties most affectionat
orator and hoomeblest seruant,

Sanctandros, 8 Sept. 1607.

SANCTANDROS.

To the King his most Excellent Maiestie.

LXVIII.—THE BISHOP OF ROSS TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

I am nocht able to render sufficient thankis vnto your Hienes, for guid remembrance of me.¹ Alwayis sa lang as it pleis God I leave, your Maiestie shall find me to be your Gamil Pope: Desyreing that the Vnioun of the Kingdomes may be according to my exampill, quhilk, I trust, shuld please your Maiestie, and breid gret quietnes. I had befor bot one sute, and now I hoip haif gottin ane vther to hold me vp in my auld age, quhich is no small conforte to me. Thus craving pardoun at your Hienes: With my hart craving at God ane happie and prosperus regne, with mony and joyfull yeiris vnto your Maiestie. Frome Leith, the sevintene of September 1607.

Your Maiesteis maist loving subiect
and Gammil Pope,

To his maist Excellent Maiestie.

Ross.

¹ See foot note (?) to page 91.

LXIX.—THE BISHOP OF DURHAM TO KING JAMES.

MOST RENOWNED AND DRED SOUERAIGNE,

I had long ere this certified your Maieftie the estate of theis your countries, but that immediatly after your Maiefties laft Affises, in the midst of Godis and your Maiefties serives, a vehement quotidian feauer of feaiven (almost continuall) fittis did so thake me, as that I was, in most mens opinion, brought almost to deathes doore; but I blesse God for it, I yet lyve, and I desier not langer to lyve, then it may be to do God and your Maieftie service. Your Maiefties Justices of Assise, Sir James Altham and Sir Edward Phillipps (worthie and learned gentlemen in their places), haue so in theire Circuitis behaved themselves, as that the countrie (since my comming into the Northe) did of both the Judges, neuer hold themselves so well satisfied. Sir Edward Phillipps (to whose place it fell heir cheifely to manage the countrie affaires) did, with that gravitie, learning, zeale (to Godis and your Maiefties service), and elloquence, so delyver your Maiefties most gracious, princely, and religious speache to him and the rest of the Judges, as that all your Maiefties good subiects, assembled at that Assise, did thereof receave most great joye and comfort; and long may your Maieftie send such ioyfull messingers, and haue such worthie Judges to proclaime it.

By the Judges and my direction, twenty Recufants of note were called to take the oathe of allegiance to your Maieftie, six whereof, namely, Sir William Blakston and Sir John Claxton, knightes; George Collingwood, Esquire (in whose howse the Preist Stafferton was taken), with three other meaner gentlemen, did openly in the Assise take the oathe. The others who appeared not, were by the Judges ordered to be bound to theire good behaviors; some of whome having since signified their willingnes to take the said oathe (we knowing your Maiefties gracious desier of their reformation), are respited vntill the Quarter Sessions, being the 7 of October next, at what tyme, if they shall not do it accordingly, the Judges order shalbe put in execution. The others (who have takin it) are (for any thing that I can learne) nothing

altered from their Romifhe fuperftition, neither in themfelves nor theirs. My purpofe is, God willing, fhortly to call them, and to make knowne unto your Maieftie what I fhall finde in them; for if, having to farr renounced their Generall, they fhall not more firmly adhere to God and your Maieftie, in the fervice of God and of your Maieftie, they can no way be thought worthie of that great and vndeferved favoure which they fo plentifully receyue at your Maiefties hands. The middle Shires (not long fince denms of theeves and murderers) by your Maiefties moft princelie care, with the painfull, faithfull, and chargable (I thinke I might add dangerous) execution of your Maiefties lawes, by the right honorable Earle of Donbarr, in executing of thofe whom neither your Maieftie, as then Kinge of Scotland, nor our late Queene could fomuch as apprehend, hath bredd fuch a happy comfort to your Maiefties good and loving fubieets, and firicken fuch a terrour to offendouris, as that we all hope, in their middle Shires, fhortly to have *abnam pacem*; and that, in fhort tyme, they fhall be no leffe peaceable then any other partis of your Maiefties kingdomes.

The Commiffion which was before, and the Commiffion which it hath pleaſed your Maieftie to graunt to the Earle of Donbarr and the Earle of Cumberland, otheris, and myfelfe (if offendouris might be remaunded, as your Maieftie knoweth it was ever my poore opinion), would in fhort tyme have effected a great and worthie worke. The banifhing of Greames out of Cumberland, and the confyning and committing of others in Northumberland, and (if it might be) the vtter banifhing and exturpating of fome (murſed and muzzled in thefts and blood), although it might and doth feeme to fome of their clannes heavie and grievous, yet it fhall teache them (if they have any grace) hereafter more wifdome, be to others a good example, *et maiori bono publico compensabitur*; and it is a thing (which of my vnderftanding) the better fort of your Maiefties fubieets here greatly approve, and praife God for. As it hath pleaſed your moſt excellent Maieftie, in this great fervice, to credit me with thofe honourable and worthie gentlemen, fo I moſt humbly beſeeche your Maieftie to be perſwaded that I will rather be founde dead then defectyue in doing my beſt indevoris in advauncing your Maiefties fervice. And thus, in my moſt humble and howerly prayers, recommend-

ing to Almighty God your sacred Maieftie; the moft noble and virtuous Lady, our Queene; the moft hopefull gemme noble Princee Henry (whom it pleafeth fometimes to tearme me his Bifhop), with the reft of your Maiefties moft Royall yffue; befecching the Eternall God, that there never want one of your Maiefties loynes to fwaye the Scepter of theis your Maiefties kingdomes, I moft humble take my leaue.

Your Maiefties moft humble and
faithfull fubieet and feruant,

Bifhops Awkland 24th Septem. 1607.

W. DURESM.

To the moft mightie and his renowned
Soueraigne the Kinges moft excel-
lent Maieftie.

LXX.—THE PRESBYTERY OF LANARK TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Vpoune the fignificatioun of your Maiefties royall pleafour anent the Kirk of Carnichell, in behalf of Sir Hew of that Ilk, efter the precise difcharge of our humbill obedience thairin, we haif prefumit (vnder mait humble proteftit pardoun) to returne thir prefentis toward your Maieftie, quhairby (withe dew acknowledgment of your Maiefties no fmall dignatioun of ws, by your Maiefties fauourable countenance wotchaftit in this and sic mandatoric intelligences), we may, to your Maiefties heighly deferuit commendatioun and princelie encouragement, fincerlie profefs, quhat bleffingis we ordinairlie bruk vnder the comfortabill fchadow of your Maiefties moft gracious and happie government; for the propagation thairfoir, and prosperitic quhairof (fince to ws it is, nixt the Gofpell, the gritest pledge of Godis fauour that we can injoy in this earthe) we fall aydinglie craue and thraue for with teiris at the handis of our God, that fo not onlie the curagionflie begun extirpation of

Antichriftianifme may be in your Maiefties awin tyme victoriously accomplifhit (being bayth to the expectatioun and experience of the Kirk the only vifegerent of God, to whom, in thir endis of the world, he hes coneredite the wark of the devaftatioun of Babel), bot alfo for the fweir fruit of the tender fofter fatherheid, that hithertillis your Maieftie hes moft happilie exerceed in the Kingdome of Chryft, fpeciallie to the behuif of your awin Maiefties fofter mother Kirk heir: the particular weilfair quhairof (gif without offence we may vferp the word) your Maiefties verie horofcope, as it wer, dois planely portend; forby the mifterie of that mercifull fynchroonifme (quhairin, as anon with your Maiefties lyf, the licht of the Gofpell brak furth, fo, with your Maiefties Crowne, did the courfe of this libertie, quhilk we fill enjoy), we reft affuirit that this Kirk, with the quhilk, in the quhilk, and for the quhilk, your Maieftie wes borne, fall nevir mis meid nor confort from yow, quhairof, alas, thair wes nevir mair neid nor presentlie now. For althocht, during our happy enjoyance of your Maiefties perfonall prefence heir, by menes of your Maiefties moft godfrauchtie adminiftratioun, our Scotif Kirk become as ane architipe to vtheris of maift ordourlie and analogicall reformation, yit (woes ws), fince your Maiefties lang remote abfence from ws, we have fo dangeroufly relapfed in mony paralitiek perplexiteis, that our fchyfmaticall diffolutionis (if your Maiefties providence do not prevent), can not chufe bot declyne to a mair pitifull defolatioun, nor perhappis, without very found and fufficent informatioun, your Maieftie can poffible confidder to the duilfull demolifchment of fa laborious a wark as God hes now lang bene a building by yow; for befyd that, by menes of our lait mutineis, Antichriftianifme is nichtilie encouragit, evin felf athefine alfo heichly advancit, and that efpecially be occafion of the blanking of diuerfe no finall congregatiomis, quhais removit Paffouris doeth presentlie fmarv vnder the burding of your Maiefties difplefour, of all earthlie inconvenience the maift infupportable to men of our calling. For remeid quhairof (pardoun ws, dreid Souerane), we wald maift humblie, as with teiris of bluid, enploir your Maieftie, in the bleiding woundis of Jefus Chryft, to becum intreat, firft, in behalf of our feperat Bretherene, that your Maieftie wald be pleifit to punifch only with pardoun your Maiefties greivances confavit aganis tham; to quhom bot the withdraucht of the

wontit ferenitie of your Maiefties countenance, we doubt not, is a maift panefull penaltie; ſpeciallie feing, according to your Maiefties accuſtomed placabilitie, your vſe hes euir bene rather with the Syndon of Japhet and Shem to cover, than with the ſword of Saul to caſtigat Kirk naikednes, as he quha with the ſceptour not of crueltie bot of clemencie, hes over conquerit all. And nixt, that it may pleis your Maieſtie, as being wyfe, lyk an Angell of God, in your accuſtomed Conſtantiniſme, fa indifferentlie to interpone your ſelf in all our differences, with the neutrall eir of ane vnpeir, that by the frie interloquitour of ane Eccleſiaſticall Senate (the only competent cenſure of ſo grit ſchymiſis), your Maieſtie may determine in all our diſcordis. To effect the quhilk, your Maieſtie may not only mak a compt of our mene concurrence heir, bot alſo of ane vnmatchable number of vnpreoccupyt and hail myndit Bretherene, reſoluit to embrace ony weill warrandit menes of pacificatioun; in doing quhairof, your deir Maieſtie ſhall not only reſtoir ws, that man be continuallie occupyt in the oratories of God for your prosperitie and perpetuall propagation of your Royall poſteritie, to our wontit joyis, and with all, ſelamefully diſappoynt the heiche hoipis of the wicket, quha, with ſtairing eyis, dois expect ſum tragicall decay in Godis lang flouriſhing kingdome heir, bot alſo ſhall report to your ſelf the trophees of a triumphant gude name heir, and of ane incorruptible crowne hence, in the kingdome of the ſecund cuming. Amen.

Your Maieſteis maift obedient ſubicctis and humbill Oratouris,

M. W. BIRNIE, M. Lanark,¹ Moderator of the
Prebiterie of Lanerk, in nam of the reſt.

Lanerk, Septimo Octobris 1607.

To thair dreid Souerane his Maieſtie,
theſe be delyuerit.

¹ In 1606, the writer of this pedantic letter published a curious tract, under the quaint title of "The Blame of Kirk Buriall, tending to persuade cimeterial civility." It was republished by Mr Turnbull, Advocate, in 1833.

LXXI.—KING JAMES TO MR JOHN CAULDCLEUGH AND
MR JAMES MARTIN.

JAMES R.

Truſty and welbeloued, Wee greete yow well. Whereas, in the laſt Aſſembly wherat Wee were preſent, which was kepte in the moneth of Nouember 1602, Commiſſion was geuin to yow to viſite the Churches of Perth and Sterlingſhire, and ſince there is nothing done in the ſaid Commiſſion (to the great præiudice and detriment of the Church), Wee haue therefoir thought good, by theſe preſentes, expreſſely to command yow, that with all conuenient diligence yee begin and performe that Viſitation of the Churches within the boundis aforeſaid, and haue your proceedingis ready to be ſightid at the next Aſſembly. And ſince Wee deſire nothing more then the peaceable meeting of an Aſſembly, compoſed of the graueſt, moſt godlie, and learned of the Miniſterie, for remouing of the preſent diſcordes and diſſenſions in the Church, Wee wold haue yow ſpecially carefull, that in the Viſitation of the Preſbyteries within the boundis aforeſaid, ſome two or three be choſen (ſuch ſpecially who are knowne to Our ſelſe to be of honeſt, quiet, and temperate diſpoſition) Commiſſioners for the enſewing Generall Aſſembly, that ſo all feare of contention at that meeting being remoued, the aduerſaryes of the trueth now preſentlie profeſſed (who cuer take aduantage of the diſſention amongſt the Brethren), may be diſapoynted of their expectation, and that the whole mindes, intentions, and cares of thoſe to be conuened at the ſaid Aſſembly may be vniſormly deuoted to the well of the Church of that Kingdome, and for ſetting of peace and quietnes therein. Willing yow to make reporte back againe to Our Secretarie of ſuch Commiſſioners as ſhalbe choſen by thoſe Preſbyteries which yee ſhall viſite for the enſuing Aſſembly, to the intent he may aduertife Vs of the ſame: And no way doubting of your care herein, Wee bid yow farewell. At Our Courte at Royſton, the 18th of October 1607.

To our truſty and welbeloued

Mr John Caldcleugh and Mr James Martine.

LXXII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE :

I am informed that my Lord of Bahmerino, President of Scotland, is readie to returne, of whom I haue receyued fo greate commendation from my Lord Archbifhop of St Andrewes, and my Lord Bifhop of Brechen, for his moft wife and faithfull proceedinges in the Churche caufe, committed by your Maieftie vnto his charge: As I do moft humbly befeche your moft excellent Maieftie, to geve him thankes, not to mak him thereby more carefull to do vnto yow any fervice (for therein I thinke he can not be more prompte then he is alreadie), but that he might take notice of their thankfullnes, as alfo of my love towards him, for their fakes, and for his owne merite. Wee haue not fo many of his rancke fo faithfull vnto vs, but that wee haue caufe to honour fuche verie muche as wee can procure them. Affuredly he is a right worthie fervant to your Maieftie, and I dowbte but that God will bleffe him with your extraordinarie favour, and otherwife to his comforte, for his good will towards the Churche. God, of his infinite mercie, fill your Maieftie full of manic happie yeares, and replenifhe your harte with all contentements and joye, both nowe and for ever. At Lambeth, the 12 of October 1607.

Your Maiefties moft faithfull Chapleyue and fubiect,

To the Kinges moft Excellent Maieftie.

R. CANT.

LXXIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF SAINT ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERANE,

May it pleis your moft excellent Maieftie: As your Hienes directed me to afsemble the Commiffionaris at neidful occafiones, I con-

vocatt thame laitlie to Falkland, and haue etled to the executione of your Maiefties direçiones, quhilk I haue refaved; and haue fent vnto your Maieftie in this prefent paequet Minutes of our proceedingis thair, that your Maieftie may returne your Hienes pleafour and direçtioun quhat of thais thingis yow will haue to be profecute. I am bold alfo to prefent certane vtheris advyfes, whilk I befeik your Maieftie to reid, and to direct anfuwer bak, and that vith als greate fecrecie as fie fervices thould be difpatched. Mr Robert Howie is heir entered to teiche in the New Colledge, and that vith fuch rare lerning as breidis not only contentment to al the Clergie heir, bot alfo ravifches thame in admiratioun, fo the abfent his antecessor is not miſſed, quhyles thay find, in ſteid of ſuperficiall and feckles inventiones, profitable and ſubſtantious theologie. Quhat difficultie and paines I haue had to fettil him heir, without help of any, ather of Counſale or Clergie, God knawis; and it vas thoct be the ſeditious that the gape of Mr Andrew Melvines abſence ſchould haue furneſed ſie mater of diſcontentment to the Kirk and countrie as ſchould haue bred no final mutinie, and ſhould haue enforced your Hienes to ſend the priſonar bak (*tanquam ſine qua non*). Laſtlic, Sir, your Hienes, in this laſt miſſive direçted to the Counſale, commandit thame to direct ſome Counſalour to mak oppin durris for Mr Robert Howie till enter in Mr Andrew Melvines hudgein and chalmeris; quhilk vas obeyit, be directing me to execute the pairt of a ſecular ſhirreff. Bot quhatſoewir was the ground of thair direçione (I vil not ſay to mak me invidious and till eſchew that dint to thame ſelfis), I haue tane bauldnes to be your Hienes ſhirreff in that pairt, and haue made oppin durris and poſſeit the ſaid Mr Robert in all his houſes. As to colloques and conferences, Sir, I offer my advyſe to your Hienes, that before ane Aſſemblic, ane colloquie be, bot not to devyſe middes, bot to propone the vtmeſt but of your Hienes intention, and defend it be reaſone, quhilk vil be eaſie to ſtudentis; and then I hoipe thai ſhalbe faine to offer at leaſt that quliche now is diſticil to be obtained. For outredding of the remanent confuſiones of the New Colledge, and for ſcharpning ſome ſluggardis quha var before freindis, as alſo becaus thair is liklie that a great truble and perturbatione ſal fall in this cuntry betwix my Lord of Tilliebarne and his freindis and my Lord Olyphant and his adherentis, be oceafion of ſome

teyndis that is fall into the Auld College, I vald humlie requeist your Maieftie, as haueand ſpeciall cair and interefe, to ſie the peace of thir pairtes preferred, as I hoipe your Hienes expectes, that it vald pleis your Maieftie to command the Viſitouris directed be your Hienes of befoir to repaire heir agane, and to reiterate thair commiſſioun. Becaus of the difces of the Biſchope of Dunkeld, in quhais rowme the preſent interant vald be placeit, and throw the infirmitie of utheris ſome adioned. It vil pleis your Maieftie alſo to reſeue the Biſchope of Murray his miſſiue and informatione to your Hienes, and to giue ſuch directione thairaunt as ſhall ſeim fitteſt. Thus I humblie recommend, with all my hart, your Hienes royal perſone and ſtate to the grace and bleſſed protectione of God everlaſting. I abyde,

Your Maiefties moſt humble ſervant and orator,

St Androis, 28 Oct. 1607.

SANCTANDROIS.

To the King his moſt Excellent Maieftie.

LXXIV.—THE MINISTERS OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

This preſent is moſt humblye to excuſe our earneſt dealing with my Lord Aduocat, for ſuſpending of the horning of a number of the Miniſtrye, refractares to your Maiefties will, proponed be him in our late Provinciall Aſſemblye, and that onlye vntill ſignification might be giuen to your Maieftie of that proceeding, and anſure receaued back agane of your Maiefties will therein: in reſpect that the number of reſufares is great, and that all ar not alykiltye; and the offence that will arryſe of the horning of ſo monye Miniſteres wilbe greater, and greeffe manye when there kirkis ſhall ſtand dumb without preaching.

Truelye, Ser, my Lord Aduocat wes feetfull and earneſt in doing your Maiefties commiſſioun, both be reaſoning, and threatning, and charging,

and giuing cōpyes of his charge to such as wer otherwayes disposed; and vsed all meanes that might be deuyfit to procure obedience to your will, and went so far therein, that to obtayne it, he ouersawe the ioyning in leites of tuo others to the sex constant Moderatores, hoping thereby to attayne his purpose; as also we, that ioyned with him in all his proceedings, looked for. Bot it fell out otherwayes, contrair to all our expectationes, and the greatest number enclyned to choose him who millykit there humor, and flatlye refused that office of Moderation whilk they wald haue layed on him.

Ser, if it may stand with your Maiesties pleasure, we wald most humblye request your Maiestie, out of your vounted clemencie, to pitie the Estate of this Kirk, pardoning some that ar mislede be others, spairing the flockis that will want exercece of Religion throch there horning; and not punishing vs, and suche as follow vs, to serue your Maiestie, be discharging our Assemblyes; vpon the quhilk we fall leaue aff no trauell to vinn so monye as we may to conforme thame selfes to your Maiesties will.

We perceauce a great miscontentment growing, and breaking out euery day more and more, in all fortis of people here, and no lesse enereffe of enemyes of the Gosple, both Papistis and Atheistis, whilk in end will ouerthronne all, except tymous remead be prouydit. It wer good therefor that the fontanes of those enillis wer sought out, and cures set doune, and prosequente be your Maiestie for helping thame, before they ouerflowe, assuring your Maiestie, that there is nothing lyes in our pouares to doe, whilk fall not be most humblye and hartelye imployed as your Maiestie fall giue direction. So, most humblye taking our lesse, we most hartelye commend your Maiesties persone, familye, and affairis to the gracious direction and pouarfull blissing of God. From Edinburgh, this 28 of October 1607.

Your Maiesties most humble and hairy subiectis.

M. P. GALLOUAY.

JO. HALL.

M. P. HEWAT.

To his Maiestie our Soueraigne Lord.

LXXV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERANE,

May it pleis your most Excellent Maieftie : It wes your Hienes pleafour to direct laitlie to me that Commiffioun for redreffing of the defolate eftaitt of your Maiefties burgh of Dundie, wiche is yit fo defolat and miserabill, that I nicht fay, *quis talia fando temperet a lachrimis*. The peft devoris many hundrethis for fault of governement, and the beft fort ar borne down. If I wer nather your Maiefties cheif fervand in Ecclefiastik materis, nather wer ane Counfoler, bund in confcience to give your Maieftie advertifement and advyfe in the effairis of your Hienes governement, yit I proteft befor God, that beand bot ane fumpill minifter of Chryfte, and havand accesse and libertie of fpeiche to my Critian magiftrat, I vald propon to your Hienes the dwilfull cace of that powre Town, defolat and vrakit only for default of gude and indifferent goverement.¹ Now, Sir, they have chofein thair magiftratis befor the Report of the Commiffioun [came] to my handis, vpoun Sondag preceeding Michaelmes day. If thair hes bein any curiofitie in delay of delyverans of the faid Commiffioun, I can not weill judge ; bot the bearer delyverit the famyn to me within fyve dayis efter the daitt thairof. Thair electioun wes maid vpoun Sondag befor Michaelmes, againft all ordour of Borrowis. Thus I am bold to refer to your Maiefties plefour and beft advyfe, quhat falbe done in this fervice ; and, if your Maieftie thinkis meitt that the executioun of the Commiffioun fall go fordwart prefentlie, it will pleis your Maieftie to mak notife thairof to the Lordis of the Secret Counfall, and ordaine thame to affist ws be chairges, and the electioun by-paft difchairgit, and the ordour takinge with the electioun to be referrit

¹ This letter has no date, which renders the subject of it somewhat doubtful. The town of Dundee had recently been desolated by "the pest;" and the removal of some of the ministers might have given cause to lament the spiritual destitution of the people. It is however most probable that the Archbishop merely refers to the dissensions that had arisen in regard to the election of the Town Magistrates, contrary to his Majesty's instructions.

simple to your Hienes present Commissionaris: for I most fay this, with your Hienes licence, the forme of the Commission was too simple and mein for sa many worthie Commissionaris. Becaus the Erle of Crawford is ane specciall in commission, quho best knawis the estaitt of that Burgh, I must refer to his Lordships better information to your Maiestie; and thair with all besek God to blisse your Maiesties Royall person and estaitt with all spirituall and vorldlie blissingis ever. I fall remaine,

Your Maiesties most humbill and obedient servand,

SANCTANDROIS.

To his most Sacred Maiestie.

LXXVI.—MR JOHN MURRAY, MINISTER OF LEITH, TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAESTIE,

My Lord Prefident, according to your Maiesties directione, conveying me befor him, declared your Hyness offence conceived aganft me, quhilk, as it hes maid me bald, in all reverence and submiffione, to present this letter to your Maiestie, so it hes begottin in my hert no small greiff, for the Lord and my conscience bearis me record, that my desyr and indeavour is, both to practis and to preache obedience to your Maiestie nixt vnto the God of Hewin, in Him, and for Him, quhais vigerent I acknawlege your Maiestie to be in your dominions: lykwayis that I send vp befor His glorious throne, owt of the deip of my affectione, earnest supplications, both in privat and publik, for your Maiesties happie reigne in this lyff, and most happie in the lyf to come: So that their [is] nothing furdre from my affectione and intentione nor your Maiesties offence. As to that Sermone quhilk of lait hes come in your Hyness hand, I confes it is myne in the preaching of it, bot in the publishing and prenting I denie and disclaime it, and am greived theirat: for I protest, be my knowlege, consent, or deid, directlie or indirect-

lie, I am innocent their of, [as] the inscriptione of it may testifye,¹ for it was not preached at Leith, bot in Edinburgh, att our Provinciall Affem-
 blie, a yeir sine and moir. In it I protest, and the self bearis witness,
 that nather words nor meaning twichis your Maiestie, bot in good ;
 quhat I delyvered, it was of our selfs to our selfs, both words and mean-
 ing includit within our selfs, for the treuthe saik, in modestie and love,
 free of all purposis to offend the meanest, it was approuen be the Brether,
 thair was twa Bishops present, quha, be their silence att least, seimed not
 to have bein offendit. It was and is buried in silence and oblivione with us,
 fo it wald continew, and els quhair also, if it war your Maiesties pleasur to
 pass by it. I have bein vnecharitable and vntrewlie reported off to your
 Maiestie, both as concerning my publik prayer, quhairin I gave satisfac-
 tione, according to the treuthe, to your Maiesties honorable Counsell, as
 also concerning my preaching att Leith, the informers of your Maiestie
 passed frome it, so I was not called to tryall : My cair and studie is and
 falbe (with Gods grace) to tak just mater fra misreporters, if not malice,
 quhilk man be the Lords work, to keip my hert and my hand free of the
 course the conscience directed be the worlds misty kis, to intertein inwart
 peace in the fawle, and maintain owtwart peace in the Kirk, so far as the
 measur of my knowlege and dewtie of my calling wil carie me, bot above
 all, to instruct the people, amange quhome the Lord hes placed me, in
 the way of their salvatione, and sinceir and rycht obedience to God, and
 dewtifull submissiōne to your Maiestie, praying earnestlie and constantlie
 that Religione and Rychteousnes may be the twa stronge and stable
 stoups of your Hynes throne, that ye may honour Him quha hes hon-
 oured yow heir with ane earthlie Crowne, and wil heirefter with ane
 hewinlie and everlasting. In this dispositione and dewtie I sal (be Gods
 grace) alwayis remain and prove,

Your Maiesties most loyall and loving servant and subiect,

Frome Leith, 9 Feb. 1608.

JO. MURRAY, Minister.

To the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

¹ See note to the following letter.

LXXVII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOVERAINE,

We convenit Maister Johnne Murray befor ws vpoun the xxv of Februar laft for vttering in prent, and making to be publifft, a Sermone of his preacheit at Leyth,¹ and for fome fpeciall pointis thair of whilkis appeirit to imply fome doctrine tuicheing the offens of your Maiefties lawis and prefent gouernament in Clurche materis: whofe firft anfuer wes, that by his moft humble letter directit to your Sacred Maieftie, he had declairit all he knew anent the faid Sermone, wherby he hoiped your Maieftie refsit fatiffcit; and till the returning of your moft grations anfuer, requirit that the forder vrgeing of that mater myght be fuprefedit. In end, he wes commandit to declair, not only whidder the Sermone wes his, and by whofe directioun publifheit, bot to gif anfuer to fome pointis thair of obferned be thefe whome it did propirlic belong. He craved licence till the nixt Counfell day, that he myght confer the artielis with the Sermone it felf. The quhilk day compeirand, he declairit that the Sermone wes his, that he preacheit it at Edinburgh, at a Synodall Affembly, mair nor a year fince: as for the publicatioun and prenting of it, he wes innocent thair of, and grieved thairat, and that he neuir knew ony thing of it. As to the artielis of his faid Sermone, becaus thay wer gevin to him in wryte, he gaif in wryte agane a generall anfuer, and being vrged to be moir particulair to enery one of thame, he delyuerit by worde the anfwers following:—Firft, for taxing of the Canon of the

¹ Mr John Murray, one of the Ministers of Leith, had on several occasions opposed himself to the Bishops and their course of procedure, and the publication of a Sermon, which he had preached before the Synod of Lothian, was the means of subjecting him to much trouble and inconvenience. A long statement regarding these proceedings is preserved among the Wodrow MSS., 4to Vol. LXXVII., No. 9. The substance of it will be found in the recent edition of Calderwood's History, vol. vi. pp. 689—702, vol. vii. pp. 18—20. The Sermon alluded to was printed anonymously in London, without Murray's knowledge, under the following title: "A Godly and Fruitfull Sermon, preached at Lieth, in Scotland, by a faithfull Minister of Gods holy Gospell. Printed 1607." Small 8vo.

Churche of England maid anent the ceremonyis thair ressanit and rati-
feit be your Majestie, by vseing the example of ane Injunctioun for the
vse of ane surpleece, he answerit, that he vsed the example of the surpleece,
not to condemne ony law approvyn be your Sacred Maieftie, bot broght
in the example be way of suppositioun, and allegeit thair could no expres
condemnation of the said Injunctioun be drawne furth of his wordis
bot be consequentis and illationis not aggreable to his meaning. And
anent the condemning of the Act of Lynlythqw ratifeit be your Maieftie,
by saying that the creiping in of the Antechristiane yok had, for the first
step, that quhilk is litill different frome oure new Moderatoris, he an-
swerit, that the same wes no expres disallowing of the said Act of Lyn-
lythqw, bot ane noting of these who wald abuse thair pre-eminence in
the Kirk, as did the Antechrist, and as the most holie and just institu-
tionis of the warld may be corrupted. And as to the imposing of the
cryme of perjurie to your Maiefties Confell and Nobilitie, who had
sworne to defend the Discipline of the Kirk, he wes sa far frome doing
the same, that it neur come in his thoct to thinke any such thing of
your Royall Maieftie, of whome, with all reuerence and deutifulnes, he
had occasioun euir to speik, as is euident be the expres wordis of his Ser-
mone, in the xlix leafe following, bot onlie meanit of thair awine Bre-
threne, who nowther keipit thair Oathis nor the Caveatis of the Generall
Assembly. And last, being inquired anent the meaning of these wordis.
“ That in Scotland we ar beating down Christ, putting him in bandis,
covering his face, and of purposis to burey him with the Jewis; ” whereby
he appeirit to tax your Maiefties Governament, who being a Christeane
Prince, fould suffer, in your Maiefties dominionis, Christ to be sua in-
treated: He answerit, That these wordis wer onlie ane generall confes-
sioun, wherunto all men wer subiect be finning, and not a particular
reprehensioun of ony: Whilk contruētioun of his wordis wes vterit be
him very modestlie, protesting alwayis that his wordis fould not be
wrung, nor his meaning wreasted, bot fauourable construed. And that,
in the first instance, seing thay ar not directlie aganis your Maieftie, the
Law, nor Estaite, bot by illationis and interpretationis, that his censure
and tryall micht be remitted to his ordinair, not meaning thairby to
declyne your Sacred Maieftie. This, in effect and substance, is all that

he anſuerit, quhairin we haif continewit our determatioun, quhill we vnderſtand your Maieſteis pleaſour quhat forder courſe your Heynes will haif to be tane in the ſaid mater; quhilk falſe moſt reddilie obeyit. And ſwa, with our humble prayeris vnto God, recommending your Sacred Maieſtie vnto his diuyn protectionn, we reſt,

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent
ſubjectis and ſeruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^s.
MAR.

J. BALMERINO^r.

CASSILLIS.

HALYRUDHOUS.

LOTHIANE.

Edinburgh, tent of Marche
1608.

JO. PRESTOUN.

R. COKBURNE.

To the Kingis moſt Excellent Maieſtie.

LXXVIII.—KING JAMES TO SIR JOHN HOUSTONE, PROVOST OF
GLASGOW.

JAMES R.

Trustye and weilbeloued: Whereas We vnderſtand that the Synode of Cliddifdail is to be kept at Glaſgow the ſecound Tueſday of Apryle nixtoem, We haif maid ſpeciall choice of yow to be Our Commiſſioner at the ſaid Synode, willing you therefor to keep the ſoirſaid appoynted tyme of the ſaid meiting, and to be preſent with the Brethren of the Miniftrie at all the tymes of there conveyning; and, at there firſt meiting, to give thame thankis in Our name for thair obediencie to Our directionis at the laſt kept Synode, and for thair dewtifull behaiour at that tyme; the lyike whereof We do aſſuredlye expect, both at the meiting and in all tyme herefter, as thay, in regardre thairof, may fullye promiſe to thame ſelſis Our aſſiſtance and authoritie to be joyned alwayes to there proceedingis. And Our intentionn to betowe particular favouris to every one of thame who fall any way deſerue the ſame by there goode,

quyet, and peceable cariage. Willing you heirwith to haif a special caire that, enduireing the said Sinode, nothing be moved therein prejudiciall to the Aētis of the Generall Churche, bot speciallye any thing whiche might be derogatorye to the Aētis concludeit at Linlithgow Affemblye: and als defyring you to concurre with these Brethren, as Our Commiffioner, in all thingis that falbe requifite for eftablifhing of goode ordour, according as you falbe advyfed and directed by the right reverend father in God the Archbifchope of Glasgou, Moderatour of the said Sinode. And howfoevir We ar not ignorant that amongis these Ministeris fome hes kythed crofferis of Our fervice and the Churches quyetnes, yit the goode regairde We haif to the better and greiter fort hes moved Ws, for thair caus, to ovirvie the others defectis, and, nevirtheles, wald not with these, vpoun hoipe of the fame impunitye heirefter, overmuche to straine Our patience. Bot hoipeing that the better forte will still be constant (whois good desert fall nocht be forgotten), and that otheris will preis, by there future cariage, to obliterate bypast faultes, and repoifeing much to your trustie caire and diligence in this busynes, We bid you fairweill. Frome Our Courte at Whitehall, the 20 of Marche 1608.

To Our trustye and weilbeloued

The Laird of Houstoun, Provost of Our Citye of Glasgou.¹

LXXIX.—SIR J. HOUSTONE, PROVOST OF GLASGOW, TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED AND GRATIOUSS SOVERAIGNE,

As it hes bein your Majesties gratiouss plesoure to command my attendance vpoun this Sinode of Cliddisdail, kept att Glasgou the 12 off Apryll, so have I obeyit your Hienes directioun, and, with fuche caire and forsycht as I culd, caryit all matteris for the advantage of your Majesties fervice. Quhairin, please your Majestie to be thus fare affairit,

¹ Sir John Houstone of Houstone was elected Provost of Glasgow for two successive years, on the 6th October 1607, and 4th October 1608.

that nevir Synode wes held with better ordoure and more feimlie gravitie. A reverent regard off your Hyenes as becom, and fuche ane harmonie amongest the Pattouris thankefelis, as the lyk wer to be wiselit in all the partis off the kingdom. In the Moderatioun off the affairis, my Lord of Glasgo hes so behavit himfelfe, that not onlie your Majesties well affectit ferventis ar exceidinglie rejoyeit, bot evin the adverfe partie, so mony off thame as ar in thir bounds, haue now thair mouthis stoppit, and ar compellit to praise God for your Hyenes most wyfe and provident caire in the redressing off thair former confusions. His Lordship, be himfelfe, will informe your Majestie more particularie in all things. Quharfore, cravunge pardoun for this my boldnes, I remane in all things, quhairin my puir service can be acceptable,

Your Maiesties most obliged and humble devotit fervitour,

Glasgo, the 19 off Apryll 1608.

Houstone of that Ilk.

To his most Sacred and excellent Majestie.

LXXX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF SAINT ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOVERAINE,

May it pleis your most Excellent Maiestie: I am bold, according to the libertie quhairwith it hath pleased your Gracious Hyenes to endowe me, thus to importune your Maiestie with Ecclesiastick occurrentis. Your Maiestie hath bene accustomed, of your princelie liberalitie, to excuse some of the poore Ministeris frome the Taxatioun of thair benefices: and as the fannyn hath bene done in the first terme thair of, so am I to request homeblie for ane Commissioun of new to do the same with diferetioun; for thair wes too great profusioun of befoir. Thus quhen euerie man hes the credite of his owne Dioecie to recommend these who for neid suld be pityed, and meritis weill for thair owne affectioun to your Hyenes service, your Maiestie will vnderstand who be vnworthy of

that credite heirefter ; and command the Collector of the Taxatioun to receaue ane subseruyed Roll, whiche thairefter man be considered.

I am so importuned with Maister Robert Durie¹ his freyndis, that I must presume to propone to your Maiestie thair petition ; whiche is, that since he hath writin to them, that if he wer at hame bot a few dayes, he would give me satisfactioun anent all these thingis quherespoun he is chalenged and convict ; to the intent that I might report to your Maiestie suehe thingis as might gif your Maiestie contentment, and would move your Maiestie to seue him some clemencie. Thairfor they desyre, that he might have licence onlie to come and stay at home some twentie dayis ; and if he give not full satisfactioun induring that space, to returne bak agane to his exile. I will nocht tak vpon me ather to be a suttler or one aduysor to your Maiestie in this behalf, as I can not measure your Maiesteis princelie clemencie with the narrow compas of my base mynd : onlie this one thing, I will intreat most homeblie your Gracious Hyenes, to honor me in your Maiesteis rescript with ane answer, that I may testifie my diligence in this employment : and becaus his kirk is not as yet plaunted, it will pleis your Maiestie to give ordour thairanent, for it is ane Burrow Toun.

Thair is also vacand heir the kirk of Kilmanyne, whiche belonged to Maister Johnne Seharpe ;² and the kirk of Creiche, whiche belonged to vnquhile Maister Alex^r. Strathachyn :³ thay ar bothe vnplaunted ; the one be the wilfull stubburnes of young Creiche, and some of your Maiesteis proper tennentes in that paroch ; the other delayed be the policie of the feditious. Thairfor I will hoomeblie aduysor your Maiestie to send home ane preceife Letter to the Presbiterie of Cowpar, within the whiche they ly, commanding them, vnder all hysent pane, to plaunt these two kirkis ; and in plaunting of thame, that they haif regard to Maister Adame Mitchell, that he be placed in ather of these two, as they fall

¹ See foot note to No. XCIII.

² See *supra*, No. XVIII. p. 28.

³ Mr Alexander Strachan became Minister of Creich, in Fife, about the year 1603. He was one of the six Ministers who were banished by King James in 1606, for professing the lawfulness of the General Assembly held at Aberdeen in July 1605. Notwithstanding his humble request to the King, to be permitted to return to Scotland, "for the libertie of his countrie air, without which the Physicians assured him there was no hope of his recoverie," such permission was refused, and he died at Middleburgh, towards the end of 1607.—(Calderwood's History, vol. vi. p. 689.)

think meittest. And efter that they haif declared thair mynd to my Lord Chancellor be write, that letters be directed from the Secrete Counfall to charge the parochinaris, and vtheris haveand entres, to receive him, vnder the paine of horning; whiche ordour no man can find fault with, since the Presbiterie will declair thair mynd thairant; and this directioun your Maiestie will send to the Chancellor.

I am also to remember your Maiestie to command the Collector to charge for the ministeris stipendis wha ar nocht inbooked in the Plat this yeir bypast. For albeit a great number hes nocht received any testimoniall of us as your Maiestie directed, yit they tak vp thair stipendis pecciable; of the whiche number is Mr David Lindfay, who wes heir sometyme, and is the vanest and vnrulyest man in Scotland. We concluded be ane act, that efter the fyftene day of Aprile, thair stipendis shold be charged for be the Collector (for we granted that space to them for thair receiptence). Least the Collector forget this, it salbe meit your Maiestie command him of new to charge and intronet with the saidis stipendis, and to be comptabill to the Commissionaris of the Platt thairfor, befor the first day of Junij.

I have assembled laithie your Hienes Commissionaris, for the Visitation of this Vniversitie, specialie for taking ordour with the confused estate of the rentis of the New College, the perplexitie whereof, be the abuse of the preceding Maisteris, hath bene suche as we can find no cleir ground to satisfie Maister Robert Howye his great travellis and most laudabill service, whiche, as it is worthye, so I wald wis your Maiestie to haif in recommendatioun. He wes vexed with the vanitie of Maister Johne Johnstoun, who wold not acknowledge his superioritie; and thairfor I myndit to haif expelled him out of the College: bot his great inhabilitie and feiknes hath stayed the executioun thairof. I got none of the Counfall to help me bot my Lord of Seone, who as ever hes bene verie forward, and concurred with me honestlie. I beseeche your Hienes, declair your acceptance of his service. My Lord Chancellor, at my desyre, directed letters bothe for obedience of this visitatioun of Fyfe be Mr Robert Howye and me, and selyk letters for obedience of the visitouris of the Vniversitie. I beseeche your Maiestie let this be recorded selyk to him; and give him directioun that our decreis may receive executioun.

since thay ar all foundat vpon that Vifitacioun in Anno 1597, wherat your Maieftie wes present. *We haif alreddy vifited three Presbiteries, and hes fundin the nomber of your honest seruantis to exceid the seditious. We haif caused them cheise Commiffionaris to the insewing Generall Affembly, and of tuell I wilbe answerabill for nyne. This hes bene the most seditious Province in all our kingdome.* If the rest come suche speid, I think this intendit Assembly fall produce good effectis.

Thus, I am spending my tyme with great pane in this service, and do spair nather travellis nor expensis; for, as my place requyres, I tak the burding bothe of assembling and executioun of thingis concluded; and without these bothe, suche great purpoissis can not be accomplisched. As for vtheris quho ingyre them selfis in our effaris, they do it bot perfunctoriouse, and we dar not commit our selfis to them. If it wold pleis your Hyenes, for supplee of my great ceit, and to mak me habill to continew with honestie in your Hyenes service, to grant me the discharge of the secund terme of my owne taxatioun imposed vpon my benefice, I will think my self greatlie eased of my burding. And, Shir, now it is no tyme to linger nor spair, when turnes ar cuming to a poynt, and (blesed be God!) daylie we succede better, and I haue fund that diligent forwardnes is now more necessarye then too wise pacience. This I remit to your Maiefties wise consideratioun, and howsomever no cace shall drive me frome profecutioun of this service, so aggreabill to Goddis will, and accompanied with so many blessingis, I hope your Maieftie wilbe so gracious as to fend bak your Hyenes pleasure in all these particularis with als great expeditioun as necessitie of your Maiefties service requiris. Most homeble I beseeche your Maieftie to eteme this service so happy and honorabill, as I fall refuse no kynd of employment thairin, that your Maiefties incomparabill wisdom fall think necessar or possibill. I pray God Almightie to powre on your Hyenes soull, perfoun, and governament, all fortes of heavinlie and worldlie blessingis; lyk as I shall remane,

Your Maiefties most homeble seruant and devoited orator.

St Androis, 17 April 1608.

SANCTANDROIS.

To the King his most Excellent Maieftie.

LXXXI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO MR JOHN CALDCLEUCHE.

LOVINGE BROTHER,

Efter my hartlie commendatiouns, ye be remembered that the Commiffionaris of the Generall Affemblic directed us to place Mr Adam Michell in the ministrie of Creiche;¹ and that in respect his Maiestie had appointed the kirkis of the banished Brethren to be planted infantlie: and we fand that the Synod off Fyff had ordained the said Mr Adam to be placed thair, and the Kinge, be his missive, had ordained him to be assigned to the stipend thairoff; thairfor I pray yow speak the Laird of Creiche heiranent, and desyre him to be content with this determinatioun, and be his advyse to appoint sun day for his ordination and appointment to that kirk; and sehaw the Kinges lettre to the Laird, and the remanent of the parochinaris that ar of respect, and returne thair anfuere to me with diligence, that, if any mak impediment, we may heir thair obiectionis, and anfuere thame accordinglie. Sua to meetinge I commit yow to the grace of God,

Your awin brother,

To my lovinge brother,

SANCTANDROIS.

Mr Johne Caldcluche, Minister at Ebdie.

LXXXII.—MR ANDREW BOYD, MINISTER OF EGLISHAM. TO KING JAMES.

LAT IT PLEASS YOUR MAIST SACRED MAIESTIE :

Thinking quhill your Hynes remaneit in your Maiesties first kingdome (mekle mair now), that the verie externe spectacle off sik a wreche

¹ Creich, in the Presbytery of Cupar. That Mitchell was translated to Creich, appears from the Books of Assiguation of Stipends for the year 1607; but from the opposition to his settlement, (see page 129), he was settled, in 1608, in the adjoining parish of Auchtermoissie (or Moonsie), and Mr David Kynneir became his successor as Minister of Creich.

as I am fuld be a dehonestament vnto your Hynes glorie, besyd the conscience off my tenuitie in materis drawing grit consequence, coniunct with that modest verecundie, as in thir tymeis makis ineptitud for suche actis, I chofit rather to deliteffe in obscuritie, nor to succumbe in wraffling with sa hard præpedimentis. Yit at lenthe, to the defect off force making supplement be the flicht off these fewe lyneis, I thoct guid, nowe feik in body, wald God (iff evin for this) haill in spirit, bruit and probabilitie induceing suspitione off interesse to all off my ordour in ilk infrequent, and in sum also to your Hynes excellent state and sacred lyff heiranent, to profund vnto your Maieftie the best cogitationes off my hairt withe it self at occasioun. Maist humlie imploreing your Cellitud camelie to accept my amiffis, seing (God beiring record, as men may also quha hitherto hes knawen me) I affect your Maieftie aboue all leveing. Nather to exsteme wordis or mater, heir maist plaufible, to procede *a spe*; for I neuer ether thoct off, nor wold, nor will accept¹ hyer place nor that quhairin as yit I have restit: *nec a metu*; for I trust in God my grittest transgressis fall neuer procure the leist douncaft off your Maieftieis graciouse eis: nather, iff ony thing be heir placeit seming at the first to your Hynes miscontentment (sar be it in effect from all my thoctis) *ut de tuis male sentiam, si tua* to flowe *ab indignatione*; for in tyme past, I neuer ikarrit, without scruple, to wrap myself *præcipitanter* in the involuere off your Hynes will, *implicite* followeing on, throwe confidence in the grit God; that, seing he haithe bewtifeit his Anoyntit with the plenitud off all uertues, spirituall, corporall, and ciuile, and with immunitie from all spectat vyceis (in baithe thir admirable to the world), he wald not suffer him to aberr from the poinctis off the first and maist notable. And nowe, Sir, in humilitie off my hairt, I requer your Maieftie, that these thingis falloweing, fewe and schort, be weyit (althocht, perhaps, to be fund licht) in the depnes attribut be God to Princeis meditationes; quhairinto your Maieftie hihlie surmontis all your Hynes

¹ Notwithstanding of this resolution, Boyd, in 1613, was preferred to the See of Argyle. Keith says "he was a good man, and did much good in his dioecse, where he always resided." It is to be hoped that his pastoral instructions were in a simpler and more intelligible style than this precious sample of pedantry, with its several profane comparisons.

louable progenitouris, and am sure fal also your Royell progenie till [while] the elementis indure. That off force, iff your Hynes will not arrogant, debt and merelit man attribut that sentence: "alyk to him hathe neuer bene, nather alyk fall be for euer." The Ancient off dayis give dayis to this renoucit *impar*.

Then, Sir, the purpoise is, to vtter vnto your Hynes my opinione and wiffes auent Papistis, Bischopis, Minitteris, Affemlees, maist molesting at this tyme the queytues off your Hynes royall mynd: the first, in all your Maiefties boundis, the rest in North Britaine.

1. I begin at Papistis, as maist perniciofse, and quhais diuelifch attemptis wald first be praeuentit. Quhais cruell actiones, and your Maiefties element passiones (quha to thame hes not bene Clemens, bot *elementia in abstracto*), aptlie I compar to Chryft his secund tentatione. Thay, the Diuil; your Maieftie, Chryft; conueying to the pinakle thair seeret craft, the pinacle your Hynes clemencie; Diuilis directione and reflone thair crueltie, coniuinct with craft; the grund off douncast, your Maiefties vniuerfall demolitione.

I will not lothe your Maieftie with Analytikis heirupon, to quhais quik and prudent apprehensiones a quihispering susurr is a sonding voce, and ea word a commenting volume. Bot wald God, all the beating hammeris within your Hynes dominiones war to inculcat the anwser of Chryft in your Maiefties earis, and forme your princelie hairt richtlie to vse the famin, "*Noli tentare Dominum Deum tuum.*" Is it not, Sir, *vera et mera tentatio*; *prudens sciens*, and I man say *uolens*, to peritche: And to mak inucessar bullines *usque ad fastidium*, to all the Angellis off hevin, with inecessant attendence, streching owt thair handis for your Hynes praeservatione, quhen, be the power gevin your Maieftie, be that ea grit Angell off grace, yea may releve all these Miniftrantis off thair quotidian trauelis? Thairfor, Sir, praying God that this confell be alse wyfe as loueing, I desyre, in the name of Iesus, your Hynes Crowne, Religione, and sacred lyff, that all Papistis within your Maiefties Kingdomes, without exceptione off perfones, may haue the fauour of exyle, thair gudis and inheritance vniuerfallie annexit vnto your Royall itate. Sa. I think, fall your Hynes and emtreicis be fred off the maist dangerouse pest within:

and being withowt, the Pape thair maifter, quhomto thay have voweit thair inalterable alledgedge, I hoipe fall be alfe much trublit with maintenance of thair hudge numer, as euer Charon was faid to be werreit withe transporting the flaine to hell in the dayis of gritteft batellis. And quhill thay fall not be able altogidder (mutuallie communicating thair treffonable confellis) to refide in the Auerne of Rome, his Holynes will relegat thame, fum to ane place, fum to another; fum to be penitentiaris, fum pilgrimes, fum fweperis of clofteris; that heirefter thair myndis fall be mair exercifit vpon thair weil deferveit misereis nor forgeing off godles and vnnaturall Conspiraceis. Sir, A Sir! will I end this, firft with Echois refponfe to Chryft his iniunctione vnto Peter, bot with a lytle change and eik, “Simon Bar-Jona, loueis thowe me? *Pafce oues meas, pafce agnos meas, pafce oues meas.*” King James, my Angel and God on erth, loueis thowe me? *Serua oues meas, ferua agnos meas, ferua oues meas, ferua teipsum.* Sir, truft in nane; for althocht all as yit hes not bene actouris, yit, *quando omnes ejufdem farinae*, willeris, onlie attending tyne; I fay agane, Sir, *tibi et tuis prospice*, for Jefus faik.

2. Concerning Bifchops. Since my curfe of Philofophe, thir twentie thrie yeiris, I have approueit and wiffit the conftitutione off *Epifcopatus*. Scripture indiçting, Primitiue ageis with happy fructis frequenting. Contentiounne the dochter off Paritie requireing, and in Scotland the neceffitie off your Maiefties hycft Court off Parliament, craveing, that thay not onlie, *tanquam ciues regni*, haue a folicit refpect to the vniuerfall ftate, bot principallie off the Kirk, that na thing paffe tending to the præiudice thairoff: vnto the quhilk, the contempt of fimple Miniſteris culd nèver give fik aduamfment, quhoueuer vtherwayis baithe prudent, erudeit, and inſtructit, with fufficient credit for that purpoſe; except fum *miſelli et incaute pii* will dreme that a lang retroceſſe of tyne (*quod àδύνατον*) hes reduceit *auream atatem et Platonis rempublicam*. *Sed aliu tempora.*

Bot, Sir, lat it lyk your Celſitud, without offence, that I ſpeik ſumquhat friſie in this ſubiect. My mynd prægeſtis that your Maieſtie intendis a conformitie off the Biſchops of Scotland with England. Sir, I think for my ſelf, that, albeit the Maifter off the play may give pairtis at

his pleſour, and entrie in the theatour, yit, before ether the actouris be perſonat ridle for this ſcene, or ſpectatouris for ioy off the act be moneit to give applauſe, mony of thoſe quha, in the vttermoſt off thair power, hes aſſiſtit that State, as it was limit in our Generall Aſſemblic, fall loſe thair beſt and laſt. And thairfor, Sir, except this be your awin onlie *fectus, ex illis turgidulis, gloriolæ cupidis qui celfitudini tuæ ſempiternum iſtud exhibent negotium.* And farther, iff I wald præſume off thingis mere and hyllic ciuile, *metuo, ſed trepida formidine falſus ludar, ne diſturbent hæc machinam aliqui bene ſtatutam,* that may ſerue for ſum graver purpoſe nor ever your Maieſtie yit medlit with. And albeit, Sir, the extremitie off your Hynes authoritie may perhaps, with the hazert of fewe, tranſyll ſum vther difficulteis, I ſie *ritium non in ſubiecto,* for, in the perſones off my acquaintance, I knawe nane bot in *accidente*; for quhome fall the conformitie off dignitie be borne owt but abundance off moyen. And I vnderſtand that ſum of our Biſchops (not thay, bot thair neceſſitie) hes bene compellit, notwithstanding the additament of your Maieſties munificence, to receve gerſumis, and vther caſualiteis, bot (quhoweuer weill aneche willing) yit not able to beſtowe ony pairt thairoff vpon the redintegrating off thair ruinat beneficeis. And, laſt, Sir, I beleue the declamations off the Puritanis, the quæremoneis off the conſynit and exylit Miniſteris, and quhilk is mair, the recantatioune of theſe quha war mair zealous in this mater, *quos facti penitebit cum ſentient ſe lateſter luſos,* quhill as thai thoct off nathing bot reſtrict within the act of Aſſemblic. Bot quhilk is mair off all, your Maieſteis awin faſcherie, nanelie, in the apparent euent off materis mair wectie, withowt all controuerſie, fall werie your Maieſteis lang inſtance, with ſmall thankis to ſik *importuni flagitatores* as daylie inſtigatis your Hynes heirtuto. And thairfor, Sir, it war beſt in this purpoſe that our litle Scottis bairge rather war firmlic anchort *in littore,* ornat as ſche is, nor committit rathlie to the *altum* withowt competent furnitouris; for be the loſe off en gud pylat, a ſoft wind may happile overquhelche hir.

I direct, be the way, to our Biſchops off Scotland, thir fewe wordis followeing:—*Veteri beneuolentie meæ qua nos hæctenus ut par erat lubens proſequutus ſum, nouum et fatale iſtud, quod Romanis patagiis, Diis, homi-*

nibus iniuis, ut primum vestris appendatis, inuitus superinjicio. [*Di te fortuna Deaque alie omnes, ineptam, mancam, mutilam male perdant, que nobis inconsulto Mercurio ac implacato inuidiosam hanc et inanem gloriam contulisti.*] *Modus, modus, Fratres: aut nos intra limites vestros cohibete, aut a me (utut id floccis quod leuior iactura) valete æternum.*

3. Tuiching Ministeris in Scotland. Almaist in vniuerfall I fie a future decay off Religioue, proceeding (next vnto our awin vnecharitable debaitis) from the present inhabilitie and worfe apparent off the teichers to do thair chairge throwe miserable pouertie; the same floweing (in all humilitie be it spokin) from a spoiling victorie off your Maiesteis minifching actionne above your Hynes munificent mynd, quha being euer in will affectit to erect the Spirituall stait, allvayis in one way of erectione Temporall, hes deieetit all. For I am able to proue, that the stipendis off Ministeris in vniuerfall erectionnes, with *decime inclusie*, for interteiuement off thame self and familie, ar not now sa stedable as war off auld the portiounes off sol-personall *curiones* seruing the same kirkis. And is it nocht to be feareit that the vniuerfall patron fall present nane off quhat qualitie iocuer, sa lang as ony can be fund ioynit to him be the necessitud off consanguinitie, affinitie, or quhat else, quha fall be able, for *specimen eruditionis*, to get perqueir one wryttin sermon: or *morum*, quhill the mater is *in fieri*, to luik as a Puritan, albeit *a facto* like *Paulus Tertius*? Sa then *ob ignauiam non recusandi*, for it fall be (and almaist is alreddie) to middill with *ius deuolutum, crimen capitale; ob culpam non rejiciendi*. Quha will belle the cat to disturbe the statione off the patronis freind? And quhilk is mair intolerable then this? The ege off his eeis is altogidder confuscat quha fecis not, that particular patronageis givein be your Hynes, and dispoineit in lyk maner be thais quhinto your Maiestie hes grantit the vniuersalis, be tyme fall turne to this tragædie: I will give yowe ten marks for hyre; your charge fall be, withowt the howse, my greue and purueyer; within, my æconomie and promptuar: As for the Sabothe, yea fall be only burdenit to reid a prayer and a chaptour. Oh, then, Sir, *cuius honorarij spe*, fall men tere thair tyme to seik eruditione? That thay may attene to sik seruile offices? No; I think thay fall not. Quhat then? Na letters, na

humanitie. Na humanitie (*ἀμεσον*), all barbaritie. *Hic hæreo, nec me possū erucere.* Befeking the grit and immortale God to imprint be hes Spirit the wisdome of Jesus Chryst in your Hynes hairt, or rather raise vpe and forme ariecht that that is alreddie imprint: quhairby your Maiestie may apoint sum constant maintenance for all the precharis within that your Hynes Kingdome: and this in your Maiesteis awin tyme. For it may be that miskenning Pharaohis aryfe, and sum Rhexobois also, quha perceveing thir rodis, will perhaps extend thair fingeris to bignes, and tak vpe mair grenoufe serudges: *Quod auertat summum Numen.*

4. As for Assēbleis. I am not ignorant that off awld Vniuersall Concils past be permiffione and indietment off Princes, speciallie for materis off Religioine, as hæreseis brak vpe. And sa, Sir, heresie off Roman superstitioune in ilk corner still repullulating and inereffing, I think a yeirly Generall Assēblie (throwe intermiffione quhairoff, bitterlie fessoneit be our awin schismis, idolatroune professouris hes nichtile abndit), according to your Maiesteis gratioufe act maid thairant, suld stand. Bot, Sir, I am assurcit, intemperat behaiour, inept for the celebrie off that place, and vnworthie off the præfence off siche a religioine Constantin as mony tymeis hes decorat the famin aboue all vther thingis, hes moueit your Hynes to dedigne that Coneill. The cawfis off sik misbehaviour, I dowt not, your Maiestie knaweis war, the multitude of impertinent actionnes, and the *ineptia* off euill direct Commissionaris; sum young and inexpert; sum elder nor wyfe; sum feride, bot na farder. Remede heirto: Na actionne in Generall Assēblie bot off thrie forts. 1. Delationne off tryelis, and cairfull scrutineis of Papistis publict and priuat practis, from all Presbitereis; with relatione thairroff to your Hynes be your Maiesteis Commissionar; and the Assēblees ayve for redresse: Thairefter to direct thair humill suitt to your clemencie, as thay fall soirfe thingis to fall owt, in præiudice off the vniuersall state off the Kirk. Quhilk procedeing, I think, fall moue gritter diligence in the Pastouris, with farder terrour to the aduersars, nor ony credeit laitlie gevin to Constant Moderatouris. 2. Deciding Appellationnes off ministeris aganeis ministeris, or bischopis. For iff a bischop wrang a minister, fall the puire minister prouocat vnto your Royall Maiestie, and so cum

four or five hundrethe myllis in that petitionne? Quhat then? Debarrit be credeit; spoilit off all his yeirle rent be tranell, returne *re infecta*, that vtheris may rather chuse to ly in repting slauerie nor intend the lyk præsumptionne. 3. The censure of Bischops: *Homines enim fumus, non Angeli*: Na thing derogating, as may be owtit be argument, to your Hynes supreme judgment, ouer all perfones in all cawfis. The vther remeid to misbehaviour: None to haue commiffione vnder fourtie yeiris off age, vnles he be *spectatæ gravitatis et prudentiæ*. All materis off lesse importance to be kepe in synodis, presbitereis, seffiounes, according to our bypast consuetude, quhairoff (prafit be God!) in removing off scandallis and coruptionne off maneris gude fruitis hes resulit vnto this day.

And last of all, I wisse your Maieftie to apoynt thrie or four off the maist ageit Ministeris, with alse many expert Laweris, to examin all Actis off all Generall Assëmbleis, casting away redundantis, particularis, and impertinentis. All the rest to be collectit and committit to the presse, in *sempiternam memoriam* off our Kirkis sollicitude for progresse off Religionne and Discipline.

This small signe (maist Excellent, michtie, and renouet Monarch) of loue in me, the finallest of all your Hynes subiectis (eften ardent prayer to God Immortall, that he wald in his begun pace, swipping away all asperiteis, leid your Hynes smothlie fordward to all the remanent digniteis that, be his prouidence, the Royall race off nature hath produceit your Maieftie unto: Craueing also that quhosoeuer wald disturb this æquall curfs, or think euill, much lesse to tuiche his Anoyntit, thair bodeis may be portiones for foxis, and thair houfis jaxis as the houfs of Jeroboam), I maist humlie present unto your Celsitude.

[*Viuat Rex et femem eius in sæculum.*]

Your Hynes pure and humil seruitour,

LXXXIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

The beirar, the Bifhop of the Illis, haueing the occafion to repair to your Maieftie for fome materis concerning the fervice in the Illis, we haif committit vnto him the relation vnto your Sacred Maieftie how far we haue procedit in that bufynes, and what courfe is tane for the furtherance and profequitioun of that fervice; vnto whofe fufficiencie remitting all thingis, we pray God to grant vnto your Maieftie, efter a lang and happy Reigne, eternall felicitie. Frome your Maieftis burgh of Edinburgh, the 27 of Majj 1608.

Your Maieftis moft humble and obedient
fubiectis and fervitouris.

	AL. CANCELL ^s .
HALYRUDHOUS.	ABERCORNE.
BEWLY.	J. BALMERINO ^r .
JO. PRESTOUN.	D. SCONE.

To the Kingis moft Excellent Maieftie.

LXXXIV.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES.

OUR MAIST GRATIOUS AND SOUERANE LORD,

We receaue your Maiefties lettre direct vnto vs, with your Maiefties Counfallour, Sir Robert Daniellfoun, Knight, Conferuatour of your Maiefties fubiectis of Scotland in the Law Countries, daittit at Greinwiche, the xv of Junij laft; be the quhilk, we wnderftand that your Maieftie is informet of fum prepofterous cheritabill fupplie, gevin be fum merchantis trading in the Law Cuntries to the banedit Minifters, with the

quhilk your Maieftie is difcontent, and thairfor willing ws to refraine that wnderfull impertinent fupplie. Your Maieftie hes alfo willit ws to mak na choife of ane Miniſter, to ſerue the nation at the Campher, without your Maiefties knowledge and approbatioun, and ſelyk that we ſould ratifie the former actis, for eſtabliſhing the Stapill of the nation at the Campher. And laſt, that we ſould reſpect the bearer, quhome your Maieftie hes fund truſtie in your ſeruite. Pleis your Maieftie as to the firſt, everie ane of ws heir preſent hes gevin his declaratioun, that he knaws of na kynd of fupplie gevin to thais beneift Miniſters, and we haue ordanit, that all the Magiſtratis within your Maiefties burghes ſould, be your Maiefties authoritie, inhibit and diſcharge all ſic ſupplies in tyme cumming, and that ilk Commiſſioner ſould intyne the ſamin to his Magiſtratis, and caus thame tak heid thairto, and puneiſch the offenders ſua oft as thay can be knawin. And as to the Miniſter at the Campher, we haue determinat and agriet, that nane falbe plaicet thair bot be your Maiefties conſent and approbatioun; and as to the Stapill at the Campher and conſervatour, we haue tane ſic ordour thairwith, as your Maieftie hes deſyrit. Forder, my Lord Conſervatour hes ſchawin that your Maieftie hes declarit wnto him the caldnes of the Burrowis, in not complaining to your Maieftie vpon the frequent reſorting of Papiftis and Jeſuittis within this realme. We ar greatlie bund to thank your Maieftie, that has ſic remembrance and zeall of religioun, as to ſteir and waikin ws vp to the doing of our dewties; and thairfoir, be the graice of God, expecting your Maiefties help and concurrence, we falbe mair cairfull to effectuat that part of our dewties to our power. And we ar this bauld to requyr your Maiefties authoritie, with the mair ſchairp and ſpeidie executioun; and thairfoir, we pray your Maieftie maift humble to hald hand thairto, and to vrge the remanent magiſtratis of the realme to ane mair vigilant cair in diſcharging the dewties of thair offices in that behalf, quhilk we dout not but ye will do. We alſo ar this humelie to pray you, that ane warrant may be direct to the poſt maifters betuix Londoun and Edinburght, to tak the merchant pakkat, to be faiffie delyuerit, as your Maieftie hes grantit to the Flemyngis, quhilk wilbe ane great farderance to the negotiatioun of your Maiefties ſubiectis of Scotland: to the quhilk office of reſait and delyuerie of pakattis.

we think your Maiesties subiect, James Bannatyne, resident at London, maist apt and qualifiet. And sua, praying the Lord to multiple your Maiesties dayis with us, in ane happie government, we commit your Maiestie to his mercifull protection. From Selkirk, this aucht day of Julij 1608.

Your maist humble and obedient subiectis, THE
COMMISSIONERS OF YOUR MAIESTIES BURGHES
OF SCOTLAND laitie convenit at Selkirk, sub-
feryvand by our commoun Clerk of Conven-
tion at our command.

(Indorsed.)

The copy of the letter sent be the Burrowes to the
Kings Maiestie, with Sir Alexander Hay.

LXXXV.—KING JAMES TO SIR J. HOUSTONE, PROVOST OF GLASGOW.

JAMES R.

Trustie and weilbeloved, We greit yow well. Whereas We have licenced the Generall Assembly of the Church of that Kingdome to be kept the last Twelveday of Julye next, at Our burgh of Linlithgowe, aifwell for compoting the present differences in the same, as for some order to be taken with this great increafe and growthe of Papistis within that Kingdome. To the effect therefore that all things may be dewly ordered, and in decent forme proceeded into, and knowing that your presence there may doe much good, We are to desire yow earnestly noe way to be absent from that Assembly. And by your counsell and advice to further the pacifeing of all questioun that is presentlie in the Chnrch, and to assist any such course that shalbe propounded for suppressing of contrarie pro-

¹ Part of the address of this letter is torn, but it evidently was directed to Sir John Houstone: See pages 127 and 169. Similar missives no doubt, as usual, had been sent to the various persons of note who were present at the General Assembly in 1608.

effors; wherein noe way doubting but your owne zeale and affection to the truth professed falbe motives sufficient, ye shall also therewith gaine Our speciall thanks, according as yow will learne more particulare from Our right trustie counseing and counsellour, the Earle of Dombarr, whome We have sent, with speeciall credit, as our Commissioner to that meeting. And soe We bid yow farewell. From Our Courte at Grenewich, the xiiijth of Junij 1608.

LXXXVI.—KING JAMES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AT LINLITHGOW.

JAMES R.

Right trusty and welbeloued Cofens, Counsellouris, and others, Our beloved subiectes, conveined in this present Assēmblic. Wee greite you well. Whereas Wee haue bene earnestlie sollicitēd by the Bishoppes and a number of Ministers within that Our Kingdom, who conuened at Falkland the xv of Junij last, to giue licence to the holding of a General Assēmbly vpon the xxvi of Julij, which was the day prefixt in Our last proclamation made thereanent, and haue bene also by them intreated to directe some religious Nobleman for Our Commissioner, who should haue care of the peaceable proceeding of the said Assēmblic, and that nothing should be proponed or handled therein which might cause strife and debate, as in the articles directed to Vs from the said meeting is conteyned: Wee, of ane earnest zeale and affection to the advancement of trew religion, suppressing of Papistis, and the well-ordering of the affaires of that Church (which, by the former continuation of Assēmblyes, haue bene thought to receaue some prejudice), haue graunted Our licence to this your meeting, translating the place thereof vpon most iust causes, to Our borough of Lynlithgow, as in our proclamation made thereanent yow haue bene particularelie certified, and haue made choyse of Our right trusty cofen and counsellour, the Erle of Dumber, to be Our Commissioner in this Assēmbly, as being in all your knowlege well affected to the peace of the Church, and one against whome no exceptions can be taken in his religion, that he, by his presence amongst

yow (whome Wee wold haue to be so respected and accounted of by yow as if Wee Our selfe were there in person), may so reule and order maters at this your Assëmbly, as, with that freedome which is dew and lawfull in such meetinges, for enery one in decent forme to deliuer his minde (which Wee no way do intende to impare), a restraint may be of all impertinent and insolent discourfes, too frequent heirtofore amongst yow, and which Wee hope, in your owne discretion, shall hereafter forborne, since all disorderlie speeches, warranted vpon the inspiration of the Spirit being the ordinary alleged ground of all the foolish new found fetes in Europe, ought to be abhorred by all good Christians, and most of all by the preachers of the word, who of all others should be most free of those fantastieall imaginary conceiptes. And therefore, whereas the former delays of this your Assëmbly (which of Our selfe Wee desired to haue held long ago) haue bene occasioned by the maligne disposition of some Ministers, who, adhering to the proud and contemptuous misbehaviour of those who did meete at that Commentie of Aberdein, are only sette to foster factions and discordes in the Church, hauing no other ende proposed to them selues but the seruing of their wicked and distempered humour, Our desire and assured hope now is, that yee will kyth to the world, in this your meeting, your earnest affection to the well of that Church, and the peace and quyetnes thereof, which of any thing else Wee do most thirst and long after: And there being two mayn poyntes to be considered by yow herein, to witte, the suppression of the common enemy, and removing of the intestine discord, the last whereof, as it must arise vpon some good solide aduice and deliberation amongst your selues, how and by what means the same may most surely and easily be removed, so the first, by your concord and the assistance of Our auctority (whereof you shall assure your selues to Our vttermost), may easily be compassed. Vpon which pointes, since yee are to meete and deliberate in the presence of Our said Commissioner (who will make to Vs a true reporte of every man his cariage in the premies), Wee wolde desire all of yow to kyth that which becometh yow, and which Wee expecte at your handes: And perswading ourselue of a godlie strife and emulation amongst yow, every one preasing in godlie and dewtiful maner to surpass his brother in earnestnes, feruent zeale, and loue, which is Our

greatest ayme and desire : And wishing from God a blessed successe to your proceedinges, Wee bid you all right heartely farewell. At Our Courte at Theobaldes, the xxth of Julie 1608.

To Our right trusty and welbeloued Cofens,
 Counsellors, and others asssembled at the
 Generall Asssembly of the Church of Scot-
 land, These.

LXXXVII.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

It may pleis your Maiestie : We haif endit our Assemblye, quhich wes very frequent, Noblemen, Barronis, Commiffionaris of Burrowis, and Ministers, in number beyond ony Assemblye that we haif sene thir mony yeiris.¹ The Bischop of Orknay wes chuielit Moderatour, althocht the votes passit hardlie aneuch, for he caryit it be thrie onlie fra Mr Patrik Symfone ; yit hes prefeidit in suche maner that thay all think the votes went happilie, nothing being concludit bot with the grit contentment of all : quhairin quhat hes bene the wyfe and diligent cair of your Maiesties Commiffionar we can not be wryting expres. Neuir, Sir, wes more travell takin be our aduerfaries to difapoint your Hienes service, and continewall lawboring be day and nycht during all the tyme of the Assemblye to raise trowbill, and cros your Hienes purpois ; bot by his wisdome and dexteritie thay haif bene so preventit, as euerie thing, praifit be God, hes fallin contrarie to thair defyris, and your Maiestie hes obtenit, with ane grit consent of all, the verry same thing that wes intendit. Amangis all the serVICES done be his Lordship, quhilkis haif bene many, we esteime this, in regard of the difficultie in compassing, and

¹ The General Assembly met at Linlithgow on the 26th of July 1608. The names of the principal persons who were present will be found in the Book of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii. pp. 1046—1063. See also Calderwood's History, vol. vi. pp. 751—776.

confequence of that quhilk is done, to be the gritteft. The Affemblic, following the verry pointis of your Maiefties Letter, inquiryt firft vpon the Papiftis, and numberis of thame, quha ar fund to be mony mac nor we had belevit: thair names ar inrollit, and the cauffes of the growth of Papiftrie condifcendit vpon, with funn ovirturis for remeid, quhilk ar all to be prefentit, in moft humble forte, to your Maieftie, be certane that ar appointed by the Affemblic to mak thair petitionis for redres of the fadis evillis. And as to the diftraçtionis amangis our felfis, thay ar now, thankis to God, at ane end, the Minifters being reconcilit to ws in ane maift lairtie affecçionn, and ane act be thair awin confent fet down, that no meddling be ony more in pulpet with the contraverfies of Difcipline; and no inveçtionis aganis any Bifhopis or vtheris, vnder the pane of moft fcharpe cenfures; quhilk act wes fborne vnto be all with lifting vp of handis. The differences that ar refing amangis ws in opinioun ar referrit to ane number of Commiffionaris, that haif powar to conven with your Maieftie, or fuehe of your Hienes Counfall as falbe appointit, to treate, reafoun, and agrie vpon thefe contraverfies; the Commiffionaris of the Generall Affemblic being approvit in the face of the Affemblic, haif a new Commiffionn grantit to thame as of befor; fo as now, Sir, we hoip for ane end of our contentionis, and a prevailling in your Hienes fervice, in quiche euerie man will ftrive to be fordwart for the fuppreffing of the Papift, our commoun adverfary, for quhilk we muft fill intreat your Maiefties favorabill affiftance, both for the faiftie of our Kirk, and the gude fueces of all your Hienes vther effairis. The Marques of Huntlie, for his insolent behaviour at Abirdene, during this his confynceing, and the feir vniuerfalie profeft be the Minifters in thefe partis, quha declairit that, without the hafert of thair lyfis, thay culd not proceid to the fentence in the proces quiche thay had deducit, wes in the Affemblic oppinlie excommunicate, with many tearis of thofe that wer prefent. The proces of the vther tua Erles is commandit to be maid betuix and the aughtene of September.

The reft of the particulars, and thefe thingis that belong to our effairis, we remit to the declarationn of the Archibifhop of Glasgou, quho is one of the Commiffionaris appointit be the Affemblic for prefenting thair humble petitionis to your Maieftie. Yit we can not omit to fchow your

Hienes that Doctor Abbotis¹ had heir ane excellent fermone in prefens of the Affemblic, quhairby he persuadit ws nichtilie to peace and luif towards vtheris, quhilk wes sua weill acceptit, as he had publiet thankis decernit to him be the hoill Affemblic, and fyve or sex of thair number direct to him for that purpois. Oure Affemblic, that in the begynning kythit sum grit diversitie in thair votes, endit with singing of the Pfalme, *Ecce quam bonum et quam jocundum, &c.* And thus we bring to your Majestie for this tyme acceptable newis, praying God to blis your Maiestie with peace and glorie in this lyfe, and endles felicitie in the world to cum. Amen.

Linlythgow the last day of Julij 1608.

Your Maiesties most humble servandis and subiectis,

	SANCTANDROIS.
M. A. BRECHIN.	GLASGOW.
J.A. B. OF ORCADS.	DUNKELD.
AL. CATHNES.	B. GALLOWAY.

To his most Excellent Majestie.

LXXXVIII.—THE BISHOP OF DURHAM TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS AND DREAD SOUERAIGNE,

Your Majesties sending hither into the North your twoe worthie servaunts, Sir James Altham and Sir Edward Phelipps, to be your Justices Itinerant, hath this yeare² gewen (as the last it did) to all your Maiesties good subiects here great comfort and contentacion, whose cheife

¹ Dr George Abbot, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.

² Evidently the year 1608. See the Bishop of Durham's letter, No. LXIX., respecting these Judges Itinerant, in September 1607. Calderwood takes notice of a Sermon that was preached before them at Newcastle, on the 11th of August 1608.—(Hist. vol. vi. p. 780.)

desire was to promote Gods glorie and your Maiesties service, with all equall, iust, and moderat proceedings, and would no doubt have brought forth a plentifull harvest, if it had pleased God to have sent good ground for soe good feede. But he whoe never sleepeeth hath and doth among the wheat sowe tares.

At an Ecclesiastical Commission held here in June last, dyverse Recusants were called before vs; some of long continuance, some false in your Maiesties tyme, with whome we had treated by all Christian, peaceable, and loving meanes; and some of the cheife of them, vpon a constant report that they were all againe reconciled to the Pope (being obstinat), were asked, whither they would, yf not come to Church, yet againe take the Oathe of Allegiance, thereby to geve satisfacion that they remained your Maiesties subiects for their civill obedience. Eight of them, neither of the best, nor of the meanest sort, but all gent of some place, wilfully (notwithstanding tyme of deliberation was geven them by vs) refused it, and some of them in ill sort. Wherevpon we committed the said eight vntill your Maiesties Iustices of Assise should come. In the meane tyme, both my selfe and others conferred with them, at severall tymes, letting them knowe that nothing was desired but that the world might see (whereof there is too iust cause to doubt) that they continued in your Maiesties allegiance; but all was in vaine, soe were some of them prepared and hardned. At theis Assises, Sir Ed. Phelipps and my selfe (knowing your Maiesties tender and gracious affection towards all your subiects) dealt with twoe of the cheife of them, either of vs privatly, in the best maner that we could devise; but not finding them soe tractable as we desired, the scandall of their refusing being now become open, and the opinion generally conceyned that they were (notwithstanding their former Oathes) againe reconciled to the Pope; it was thought meet againe to tender it vnto them. Six of them openly againe tooke it, and twoe recusants; but twoe of them, notwithstanding they had heard what had bene said, and seene what had bene done by their fellowes, obstinately and stubbornly refused it. Sir Edward Phelipps, desirous to satisfie them, did particularly goe to every part of the Oath, asking what therein they could except against. The first of them (a draper in Duresme) approved all, vntill he came to that point

wherein he must sweare that he is in conscience perswaded that the Pope cannot dispence with his Oath, and from that he could not be brought, by many reasons to him publicly given. The other (although very intelligent) pretended ignorance; and being asked whie he could not now take it aswell as formerly he had done, said, that he tooke it then as he was then perswaded, but now thinketh, that as a Catholike (as he termeth himselfe) he may not take it. Wherevpon, after many perswasions by the Judge, others, and my selfe (all which were in vaine), they twoe were indicted of a Premunire, and by a jury of twelue, knights, esquires, and gent (of the best then present at your Maiesties service), Sir Charles Wrenn (whome it pleased your Maiestie to honour with knighthood at my humble suite) being foreman, they were found guiltie. I may not say as he saith, *Ex vno disce omnes*; but your Maiestie may hereby see what the Popes practizers haue wrought, and how farr (notwithstanding their former Oathes) they are relapsed. This act was publique, and the report is true, and I praye God your Maiestie may knowe in tyme the harts of all whoe stand soe dangerously affected. It pleased God, that the first æquiucating preist, Sicklemore, was brought to me to Duresme (I then being Deane), whereby some light was given, to meet wherewith that worthie Oathe of Allegiance was first ordained. Now, at this Assise at Duresme, this falleth out, which is a stubborne revoult from faith and obedience formerly given to your Maiestie. This I may be bould to assure your Maiestie, that howsoever the Papists shall traduce vs, your Maiesties poore seruaunts, in the Ecclesiasticall Commission for committing them, and your worthie Judge, after their conviction, for condemning them, yet an hundred for one doe blesse God for soe honorable an execution of your Maiesties lawes; and all their frends that haue bene with me (to vse their owne wordes) are ashamed of their insolent and proude Popery; and the example, I hope, will confyrme your Maiesties good subiects, and deterr others from daring to doe the like. And if it may seeme good to your Maiestie that the like course may be held in other parts of your Maiesties kingdome, it cannot but worke the like or better effects.

Your most excellent Maiestie must pardon me, if in this (as in all other my former letters) I touch still the treble (nay, I feare, the trouble string).

Our cheife Recufants have their lands and lyvings, and their dew debts vnto your Maieftie, ftalled nothing neere the valew thereof. Some of them growe rich; all of them are freed from your Maiefties fervice; all or moft of them are become infolent, and bring vp their children, fome, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 in a familie, at menn and woemens eftates, all in difobedience to the lawes of God and your Maieftie. And although fome of them goe to fchoole in the Church, yet when the bell ringeth to prayers, it is a watchworde for them (fuch is their parents direktion) to flunne the church, and as they bring them vp, foe we fee that in their marriages they dayly beftowe them. What their parents meane, and what may become of their childrens children, God onely knoweth, and I doubt not but your Maieftie, in your princely wifedome, confidereth.

Your Maiefties late letters, touching mufters, and furvey of your people, were by me made knowne to the Iuftices at our late Affifes; and I doubt not but your Maieftie fhall receyve, ere long be, as good and dutifull an execution thereof, as in other fervice hath bene done, which your Maieftie hath commaunded in theis parts.

Many other things I have made bould to impart to the honorable and noble Earle of Dunbarr, whoe, as he hath, beyond all expectation and hope, fetled peace and order in the middle fhires, foe I hope that by his meanes and mediation your Maieftie may fee, both in theis parts and Scotland, peace and quietnes in the Church, and among your Maiefties (yet refractarie) people. We, your Maiefties poore Cleargy, in theis middle fhires, next vnder God, and your Maieftie, have our greateft hope of reformation by his honorable, religious, and zealous promoting of Gods glory and your Maiefties fervice.

And thus moft humbly craving your Maiefties pardon for this my tedious bouldnes, befceeching Allmightie God long to bleffe and preferve your Maieftie, and all yours, I for this tyme doe humbly take my leave.

Your Maiefties moft humble and
faithfull fubiekt and fervaunt,

To my moft renouued and dread Soueraigne,
the Kinges moft Excellent Maieftie.

W. DRESMIE.

LXXXIX.—THE PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE :

The necessitie of some of our Church affaires hes maid us bold to present humble to your Majestie our Complaint, which is, that the Lord Chancellor having in Ereccion an benefice of cure, under the name of the Preceptorie of Sainct-Antones, an personage and vicarage, which in old time of Papistrie served the cure of the Church of Hailles, notwithstanding refusis to give maintenance, or half-maintenance, for serving the said church; and therefore the Minister thereat, forced be necessitie, hes obtained, at our last Assemblie, liberty to remone tharefra :¹ So the said church shall remaine destitute of Gods worship. Your Majestie hes taken ordour graciousslie, with the rest of the Ereccions, that the churches may be planted. We humble request your Hienes, ather be commandement to the said Chancellor, or direction to your Majesties Council, or to the Modifiers of the next Platt, to cause seek out some meane, that a congregation so neare Edinburgh, served ever since the Reformation of Religion, be not displanted be the evill will of evill meaning men. Craving humble pardon for our boldnes in presenting such base futes to your Hienes, and trusting to your gracious respect to the meanest turne of Gods house, humble takes our leave, commending your Hienes to the grace of the most High. At Edinburgh, in our Presbyterie, the sixteenth day of August 1608.

Your Majesties moift bounden and obedient subiects,

JO. HALL, Moderator, for the Presbyterie.

CHARLES LUMMISDENE, Clerk to the Presbyterie of Edinburgh.

To the Kingis moift Excellent Majestie.

¹ Some arrangements appear to have been made in regard to the stipend : as Mr James Thomson, who was "planted" at Hailles, in May 1598, continued Minister in that parish for several years subsequent to the date of this letter.

XC.—THE BISHOP OF THE ISLES TO KING JAMES.

PLEAS YOUR SACREIT MAIESTIE :

According to your Heichnes directioun, as your Maiesteis Lieutenant¹ baith laithie visitat your Heichnes West Ilandis, whair also the cheif men of your Maiesteis North Isles did also meit his Lordschip, with such obediens to thais your Heichnes lawes practiseth be his Lordschip, as the testemoneis reportit will beir sufficient record; for haue I, being ewir in compaigne with his Lordschip, faythfullie writtin the trew historie of the speciall turnes of ony importance wiche was done euery day of that jurney, and that to your Maiesteis Secretar for Scotland, that thairby, he being warrandit to giue your Maiesteie informatioun of the trewth, your Heichnes may be inarmit aganis synisterous reporters of our proceedings, of the wiche diuerse perhaps may be presentit to your Maiesteis sacred cares; as also, vnderstand how easie it is to your Maiesteie (with a lytill help of the adwyse of sic as hes bene thair, and sene and considerit the present estait of thais folkis, now void of the trew knowledge of God; ignorant of the most part of your Maiestes lawes, and thair dewate towarttis thair dreid Souerane, without ciuillite or humaine societe, and yit wrappit in ane ferrill feir of the executioun of your Maiesteis iustle conceawit wrath aganis thaim), out of the deipnes of your Maiesteis heich wifdome, to establishe and induce thame all, without hostelite or openyng of your Hines coffers, to accept of such a soleit ordour as may reduce thaim to ane haiste reformatioun, in na aige heretir to altir; the which shall be retenit and committit to eternall memore, as ane of your Heichnes notabill workis, wucomparabil with the maist singular actes of the most famous ancient Imperouris, of the wiche the most worthie could newir atteine to that honour, and shall testefe your Maiesteis wifdome and actioun to exceid, alle far the most wyfe and wariant practis of your Heichnes nobill progenitouris, as your Heichnes dominiones ar enlargit beyond thaires. Nather can the prais nor

¹ Andrew third Lord Ochiltree.

honour heirof be gewin to ony instrument employit be your Maieſte in this ſerweice, albeit both your Maieſteis Leutenant and Admirall hes kythit thair curage, viſdome, and erniſt effectioun to furthir this work ; bot firſt to God, and than to your Maieſtes ſelf his Anoyntit, whom he hes ewir bliſſit, proſpere, and broecht to ane happe end all your Heichnes employtes, without crewelte, nochtwithſtanding of the waiknes of the ſecound instrumentis, thai following furth the meanes your Heichnes hes vſit, wyſſe and mercifulle to direct, of the wiche we, all your Maieſteis ſubiectis, hes ſure and confortabill experiens. And ſwa, nocht douting bot your Maieſte will follow furth this happe work with matur deliberatioun, I moſt effecteouſlie befeik your Heichnes, that ſeing my ould aige dayle crepis on,¹ and be thir trubilſum jurneyes now ſemis to mak gritter haift nor ofbefoir, and my credeit amangis thir folkis, be the forme of this laſt actioun practiſehit amangis tham, ſumwhat (as apperis) deminiſehit, that it myeht pleas your Maieſte to appoynt ſum wther of yonger aige, gritter curage, bettir diſcretioun and credeit in thais cuntreis, to this charge, and that I may be permittit to ceife fra ſuch viriſum tra-wellis, and end the remanent of my dayes in the exerceis of ſum poyntes of my calling, and in ſpeciall in praying to God, the Fathir of our Lord Jezu Chryſt, to continew with ws thais manefauld bliſſingis, ſpirituall and temporall, wiche all the pairtes of your Heichnes dominiones inioyes be your Maieſtes happe governament, the wich I befeik his dewyne Maieſte, in his grit mercie, to continew long and proſperouſlie with vs, and that our ſuceſſouris may reioiſe in the lyk, be the futur rigne of your Heichnes royall progene, and that ewir, to the laſt cuning of the grit Judge of the world.

Ane of your Sacreit Maieſteis moſt wvorthle ſubiectes,

Kintera, the xvij of September 1608.

AN. ISLES.

To his maift Excellent Majeſtie.

¹ Mr Andrew Knox, who had been Miniſter of Paisley for upwards of thirty years, was made Biſhop of the Isles, and Abbot of Icolunkill, in 1606 ; and was afterwards translated to the See of Raphoe in Ireland. He ſurvived till 1632.

XCI—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUVERANE,

May it pleis your most Excellent Maieftie : As your Hienes hath furneit vnto me mater of incomparabill joy and comfort, be gude acceptance of my last supplicatiouns and advertifementis, sent to your Maiefties most gracious hand be Maifter Jofwa Dury,¹ quhairby I am not only receivit, bot also animat with new fpirit and curage to be mair fordwart than ever I have bein in all your Maiefties fervices : So I most tak the boldnes to recomend to your Maiefties confideratioun and gracious allowance all fuche perfouns of qualitie and ftaitt as ar futtest to be imployit in fervice, ather for thair place or found meining, efter that I haue most humble beggit of your Maieftie pardoun for my too too grit credulitie in fuche caillis.

My Lord Erle of Crawford, quha is one of your Maiefties most ancient and nobill Barouns, hath gevin to me fuch eferance of weil doing and repairing of all his former lossis, with your Maiefties royall ayde, togidder with sic ane nobill cariage in the execution of all your Maiefties directiouns, specialie for defence of our estaitt, that I presume to recomend to your Maiefties gude confideratioun the estaitt of that nobill man and his hous, that he may be prefervit for all gude fervices that your Maieftie hes in this contrey : for ane man of that following, place, and curage, quhairwith he is indewit, is meitter to be ackowlegeit and charreit than theise quha, being moir ignobill myndit, feik gaine bothe of Prince and people, and in the mean tyme will prevaricat in thair Sovereane Lordis speciall imploymentis. He hes fure apparent challenge of richt to this benefice of Meiggill, wiehe your Maieftie hath beslowit for the fupplie of the waiknes of the Bifchoprick of Dunkell.² I muft be humbill fuppllicant for that Bifchoprik, wiehe is

¹ Son of John Durie, Minister of Edinburgh : See note to No. XXX. At this period he was Second Minister of St Andrews.

² The Kirk of Meiggill was annexed to the Bishoprick of Dunkeld, 11th August 1607. (Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv. p. 372.)

the first of this my province of Sanctandros, for the Bifchoprik can not fubfift with out it. How honeft and forduart his Lordfchip wes at this lait Affembly of Lithgow, I refer to the declaratioun of your Maiefties moft worthie, vyfe, and painefull Commiffionar, the Erle of Dumbar; and how redde his Lordfchip is to affift me, I can not diffembill, vnles I wer ingraitt and vndewtifull. Wiche kyndnes and forduartnes for my behalf, I tak it to cum, not fo muche of ony regard of my perfoun, as for regard he hes to your Maiefties direftioun, and to the affection that he knowis your Maieftie bearis to ws, and the fervice committit to ws be God and your Maieftie. Thus I commit, with all my hart, your Maiefties royall perfoun and eftait to the bleffing and mentinance of Him whois Lievetenant and Image yow ar. I fall remaine,

Your Maiefteis moft humbill fervand and affectionat Oratour,

Sanctandros, 3 Octob. 1608.

SANCTANDROS.¹

To his moft Sacratt Maieftie.

XCVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

This beira'r, the Bifchop of the Yllis, having the occafion to repair towardis your Sacred Maieftie, we haif thought meit to accompany him with this our teftimonie, and approbatioun of his dewtifull cariage and behaiour in your Majesteis fervice in the Yllis, wherein he hes caryed him felf with very goode credite and reputatioun, and is able, be his counfaill and aduyfe (in refpect of his awne credite and freindfhipp amangs the Yllismen), to do vnto your Maieftie goode fervice thair. And fua recommending him vnto your Sacred Maieftie, and moft humelie befeiking your Heynes to heir him in fuche thingis as he will propone

¹ Indorsed,—“B. of St Andrews to the King, in favores of the Erll of Crawford, for his forwardnes to advance Epifcopy. Oct. 3, 1608.”

anent the profecutioun of this fernice, we pray God to blisse your Sacred Maieftie with all happynes and felicitie, and restis for ever,

Your Maiefties most humble and obedyent
subjectis and fervitouris,

	AL. CANCELL.
TORPHECHIN.	ROSS.
CLs. REGISTR.	BULECLUGHE.
M. A. ELPHINSTON.	HALYRUDHOUS.
JO. PRESTOUN.	S. T. HAMILTON.

Edinburgh, 13 October 1608.

To the Kingis most Excellent Maieftie.

XIII.—MR ROBERT DURIE, MINISTER,¹ TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAESTIE,

Most dread Soverane, I have hard of lait, that your Maieftie hes conceaued a new offence againts me, be occasione of a speach which (as is reported) the Confernatour hes spoken to your Hienes of me, namlie, that I fuld have said to him, be way of traducing your Hienes, that your Maieftie gave way to the rebellione in Irlande, to the end your Hienes mycht seem confiraingned to grant toleration to the Papistes; wherin, if he or any vther hes so reported of me, both your Maieftie and I suffer great wrong. If ther had been such curfed intentione in me, as to tra-

¹ Mr Robert Durie, Minister of Anstruther, after his banishment to France in 1606, proceeded to Holland. The Archbishop of St Andrews, in April 1608 (see p. 129), refers to his anxiety to be allowed to return to Scotland; but this privilege was refused by his Majesty. In 1609, Durie became first Minister of the Scottish Church in Leyden, which was then instituted and endowed by the States of Holland. He died in September 1616. (Steven's Hist. of the Scottish Church, Rotterdam, p. 312.)

duce your Maieftie (which the Searcher of all heartes knawes, was and is fare fra my heart), it is not probable that I wald have done it to fuch a perfone, who I know fo reuerences and affectes your Maieftie, according to his bound dewtie. It is trew, that becaufe I wes in conference with my Lord Confervitore, and having occafione to be among ftrangeres who wer talking of the oversight and places that Papiftes hes vnder your Hienes, and remembering how it wes fpokin of, that Papiftis had great credit, materes of Yrland wer not much regarded, and that the number of Romifhe Catholickes did greatlie growe; this, faid thay, apparentlie might bring in libertie of Poprie, ather be neceffitie or be fome courfe of policie. Now, becaufe the Conferuator is one of your Hienes Councelle, and myght fom tyme have occafione to fpeak a word in feafone to your Hienes, how ftrangeres feanfes of thinges that thay heir, and fo myght giv councele fore remeading fuch thinges as any way might feem to hinder the growth of your Maiefties honorable and glorioufe eftimation among the godlie; therefore, be way of information, and report of the fpeech of vtheris, I did report fecretlie, none being witnes betwix him and me bot God, what wes fpokin be vtheris; lyk as, if I had been in credit my felf, and cowld have found convenient opportunitie at that tyme, I wald have thocht it my dewtie to have craved pardone of your Hienes, to have fpokin to your Maieftie all that I fpak to the Conferuator; lyk as fra my heart, I defire the increfe of your Hienes good eftimation, and wald hav everie thing removed that may hinder the growth of the fumyn. In end, it wes subjoyned, that I trusted the Rebellion in Yrland fuld move your Maieftie to tak fuch ordour, that all thefe doubtles fuld be takin out of menes myndis. This, Sir, is the fimple trewth of that mater, and if ather the Conferuator or any vther (yet, to my remembrance, I had no fpeech of fuch mater bot with him) hes fpokin vther wayfe, the thing I faid is far miltakin; and that which I reported as the fpeech of another, be way of information, is gevin out to your Maieftie in my name be way of afferfione: Heerof it procedes, that the thing done be me, with a dewtifull and reverend affection of heart toward your Hienes, is imput to me, as if I had traduced my Lord the King, which God and men knawes my heart hes ever abhored to do to any, bot much mor to my Soverane Lord. Alwayfe, Sir, it will

pleafe your Maieftie to tak notice of the purpofe of my heart in this mater, as alfo of the circumftances in vttering my dewtfull affection to your Hienes effimation, and what your Maieftie judges that I have offendit in any circumftance in this mater, as I fhall wnderftand thairof, I will in all humilitie of heart acknowledg, and crave pardone for the fame, perfwaded, that the trewth of that mater being knawin as it wes, your Maieftie will never input it as any giltines to me, bot (according to my earneft defyre) freele forgive whatfoever oversight that, throw my fimplicite and good intentione, may accidentlie have efchaped me heirin. Now, I befech the Lord to blife your Maiefties Royale perfone and government, with your Queen and princelie pofteritie, with all good blif-finges for this lyf and that which is to come, and eftablifh your throne vnto the coming of our Lord in the cloudes, to fet all thinges in ordour. Amen.

Your Maiefties loyell and faythfull fubiect,
humble fupplicant, and daylie oratour,

MR ROBERT DURIE.

Middelbrughe, the 21 of October 1608.

XCIV.—MR JOHN FORBES TO THE KING.

IT MAY PLEASE YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

As I had refolved to trouble your Maieftie no moir, your Maieftie not willing to heir from me any moir, fo did I think that no man fould haw¹ bein fo malicious whom my bypaff troubles fould not haw flayed from feiking any forder harm; bot now heiring that the Confervitour fould inform your Maieftie of traducing fpeeches vttered be me aganft your Maieftie, I moft craw² pardoun of your Hienes to declar my innocence. The Lord hes laid this law vpon me, that I fould not fpeak evill of the Prince of my peple; the confciene of whiche dutie hes, dois, and fill I hoip by Godis grace fall inforce me to tak head to my fpeeches

¹ "Haw,"—² "craw," for "have," "crave;" the writer, it will be observed, was very sparing in his use of the final *e* in many of his words.

of your Maieftie, althocht ther wer no man to controll me, and befyd the teftimonie of my awin confcienc, I know there is no plac wher I haw bein, nor Princ or any vther perfoun with whom I haw conferred, bot can and, if neid beis, wil witnes whow constantlie I haw ftand to the defence of your Maiefties honour agauft all finiftrous, ather reportis or conceitis of men, even fpeciallie in that fam wherin I am now traduced; nether ever remember I that euer to any I did fpeak any thing that nicht haw giffin the fmalleft occasion to forge fuche a calumnie, except only that conferenece twiching your Maieftie whiche wes betwix the Confervatour and Mr Robert Durie and me¹ in the Confervatouris awin chalmer; wherein he with vs and we with him, lamenting the preiudice that enery wher amang guid men did aryfe to your Maieftie, for the to gryt favour and clemencie vfed to the aduerfaries of Godis treuthe, your Maiefties moft bitter enemies, and the harder dealing with your Maiefties moft loving fubiectis profeffing the faid treuth with your Maieftie; and fo falling to fpeak of the judgmentis of men, I did feliew him that I had fein on who, paffing to Ingland, did affirm that he did carie thither letteris from Rome, wherby he had wrocht gryt preiudic in the hartis of many in France; wherwith being greved, I did communicat this my greif to the Confervitour, even defyrous that your Maieftie nicht know it, lyk as he did in no les meafour lament the fam inconvenient to me: Bot that I euer did fpeak, that your Maieftie had changed with the Pop letteris, or that I did affirm this report of this man to be trew, or did thervpon traduce your Maieftie to any creatour, if he or any vther can proue it, then do I not refufe the deferved punifchment; and what wes my part toward your Hienees in that fpeche to the Confervatour, his awin teftimonie gevin me at my departing and taking of his leue, whiche he wold haw me to tak in teftimonie that he eftemmed me a faithfull and loyall fubject to your Maieftie, ar fufficient to cleir me of all calumnie; for, befydhis his favorable vfang of me at my being heir, he did difnife me at my going away with als honeft a teftimonie as he could giw to the moft faithfull fervand that euer did ferw your Maieftie, and not only fo, bot promifed to mak it knawin to your Maieftie what faithfull dutie I

¹ Sir Robert Danielston; see page 140.—This allusion fufficiently indicates the date of the letter to correspond with that of Robert Durie, 21st October 1608.

had keipel in all partis towardis your Heines, fo that by no man culd I haw looked of that man any report to be fped to my preiudice. The Lord forgiw him, and mak your Maieftie wyfe to difcern fuche flatteries; for fo long as your Maieftie is willing to heir evill of your fervantis, ther fall neuer be wanting who fall invent calunnies to our harme. Nather fpeak I this to obtain the benefeit of my peaceable returning to my cuntry; for fence your Maieftie is not refolved to grant, I haw refolved to beir with the lofs of it, till it pleafe the Lord to inelyn your Maiefties hart to forder clemencie; bot althocht I never return, yet mynd I, by Godis grace, to proue no les dutifull and faithfull in all reuerence, loue, and obedience to your Heines, then if I did inioy all the favour your Maieftie can yeild me; for I do not, as vtheris, refpect your Maieftie for gain, nor peace, nor cuntry, nor any commoditie worldlie, fo muche as for confcience, and that carie I with me whitherfoener I go. I hoip the Lord fall giw me this grace to loue him, and to honour the King always. If your Maieftie had pleafed to heir my felf befoir this tym, your Maieftie wold haw had better pruf of my honeft and vpricht hart to your Heines; bot fene your Maieftie will nather haw me nor my labouris, I refi in patienc, fill faithfull thoct never employed,¹ and your Maiefties euer, althocht forfaking, fill loving and honouring your Heines, althocht your Maieftie both fuld haite me and procur my fchane. Praying to God to blifs your Heines and profper your throne, and continew your pofteritie thereon to the end, and to confound all your Maiefties enemies and evill willeris, and in tym expedient to mak knawin to your Maieftie who ar faithfull and who not: the fur mercies of Dauid be with your Maieftie for euer.

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient fervand,
moft vniuftlie oppreffed and vndeservedlie traduced,

MR JHONE FORBES.

To the King his moft Excellent Maieftie.

¹ Soon after this, Forbes became the founder of a Presbyterian church at Middelburg, in Holland, supported by the English merchants who were there resident.

XCV.—THE PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING TO KING JAMES.

DREADE SOUERANE,

The returning of sum of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblic litle frome youre Maiestie, togidder with thair reporte of your Hienes gracious acceptatioun bothe of thame selfis and of thair commiffioun also, hes nocht only wrocht grite joy in our hairtes, bot also hes incuragit ws to present vnto your Maiestie most humbill and hairtie thankis for your Hienes fauorable countenance and gracious acceptatioun foirfaid. Becaus the grittest blissing that our hairtes could haif wisshit wes to sie, in our tyme, one God trewlie worschippit, one King dewtifullie seruit, one law reuerentlie obeyit, one faithe and religioun allanerlie vnsenzetlic professit within this realme; this blissing (we say), quhilk our hairtes fo eirnettlic wisshit to sie throuche your Maiesties gude inclinatioun to advance the trewthie of God, is liklie to attene to ane grittare mesour of perfectionn then euer we could haif expected in our dayes. Oure pairte falbe (God willing), by all humbill seruice, dewtifull obedience, and reuerent subjectionn, to glaid the hairte of our Souerane Lord, to the end your Maiestie do nocht this worke with greif, bot with joy and full contentment of mynd, and lykewyis that powere may cum from above to mak your Hienes autoritie feirfull to all the professit enemeis of Christis gospell, bathe within and without the cuntrie. And albeit we could neuer as yit attene to the perfectionn of the best forte of wyfe cheldrene, quha haif careit thame selfis fo dewtifullie toward thair father, that in all thair lyftyme they haif nocht proceurd ane angrie looke of thair fatheris countenance, nor yit ane seharpe strype frome thair fatheris handis, yit we fall indeuour (God willing) to be in the secund rank of wyfe childrene, quha walkis circumspectlie and warlie, fering, frome thair hairtis, to gif just caus of offence to thair gracious and loving Father. Your Maiestie, according to your wounted clemencie, will pitie infirmitie in your humbill sermandis, and punishe proude malice in your enemeis, quha haif presumit (as we heare) to cast furthe, to the view of the worlde, railing writtinges against my Lord the King: “ Bot the soule of my Lorde the King fall be bounde in the boundell of lyf with

the Lorde thy God; and the foules of thy enemeis fall God cast out of the middle of ane sling." (1 Sam. xxv.) "Quba despyfes gouernament, and ar presumptuous, and stand in thair awin conceate, and feare nocht to speake evill of thame that ar in autoritie," (2 Pet.); quhais custome also is to stand far of, to barke lyke doggis against godlie princes, fering to be beatine with the staff of lauchfull autoritie. gif they approuche neare. Thairfoir, most Gracious Souerane, we humbly intreate your Maiestie to count this to be ane peice of the rebuke of Chryste, quhilk fall purches to your Hieneis in this world ane sure and stedfast hous, and in the world to cum ane wecht of vspeakable glorie; and so muche the rather, nocht to take such railing speches greuouslie, becaus the Lord hes maid your Maiestie wyfe like ane angell of God, to knowe good and euill; and withe the pithe of your Maiesties royall pen, to be als fearfull to all learned forraue aduersares, as, by the strengthe of ane lauchfull and fattled autoritie, to dantoun all intestine and domestike rebellis. Finallie, we humbly entreate your Maiestie to beare with our boldnes and rudenes as ane father dois withe his awne babes, quha lykys better of the blobering speches of his awne cheldrene proceeding frome love, than of all the painted eloquence of his haitfull enemeis. This, in all humbill maner wisling to your Maiestie long lyfe and ane prosperous ringne, we cease to impeche your Maiesties cares with farder wordis.

Your Maiesties humbill seruandis,
 THE BRETHRENE OF THE PRESBITERIE OF STIRLING,
 Subseruiued be ane of thair number, at
 thair command,

PATRICK SYMSONE.¹

Stirling, the tent day of Nouember 1608.

To his Maiestie.

¹ Mr Patrick Symson, Minister of Stirling, was born in 1556, and died 31st March 1618. He was perhaps the most learned and zealous of those Presbyterian Ministers who were permitted to remain in the Ministry notwithstanding their continued opposition to the Episcopal form of Church government.

XCVI.—THE MINISTERS OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

Our dutie both toward your Highnes, as also toward this flok and people, over the whilk wee are appointed watchmen, enforceeth us at this time, by these our letters, to give some declaration to your Majesty of the trueth of that mater ament the late election of the Provest of this Burgh. As it pleased your Majesty to give signification of your mind and pleasure hereanent, aggreable also till æquitie, and to the lawes and constitutions of this Realme : So did wee, in your Majesties name, both privatlie and publicklic, urge their obedience and conformitie to your Majesties most reasonable desire : Bot the Conneill here for the time, not of any contempt, whilk wee wald be loath ather to foster or oversee in them, but partlie upon opinion that your Majesty wald not so hielie offend with this their proceeding, the advertifement cumming to them upon suddan, a verie few dayes befor their election, and partlie to eshew the note of ingratitude toward that Nobleman¹ who had so many yeares of before served in that office with your Majesties favour and their contentment, they did mak election of his Lordship for the yeare to come, with provision alwayes, that when they should understand furdur of your Majesties pleasure, they were then to follow it preciselie, and no wayes to cast them selves under your Majesties just anger. Whilk report wee mak to your Majesty, not as thought wee wald tak the patrociniie or defense of that whilk is done. For wee can now assure your Majesty of the great grief and displeasure of all the Citizens here, conceived upon the report of your Majesties anger, even they who voted in that cause affirming, that gif they had understood that your Majesty wald have tane so hielie this their doing, they wold have bene exceeding loath in any wayes to have irritat your Majesty, who has ever kythled toward them so gracious and so loving a Prince. May it therefore please your Majesty to heare us Supplicants in their name, beseeeking

¹ The Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Dunfermline : see note to p. 23.

humble your Majestie that your anger conceived against them may be relented, and your wonted favour this once continued toward them. For wee, in their name, promise such amendment as your Majestie will preferve, and offer our selves as cautioners for them to your Highnes, that the like occasion of your Majesties discontentment shall not be offered be them in any time hereafter. The honest men, bearers hercof, have alwayes shewed themselves of good and readie disposition in all your Majesties services, and therefore it is certainly expected that your Majestie, out of your wonted clemencie, will not dismisst them without a favourable answer. This, craving humble pardon for our boldnes with your Majestie, we tak our leave. Edinburgh, the day of November 12, 1608.

Your Majesties humble and obedient subjects,

M. P. GALLOWAY.

JOHNE HALL.

M. P. HEWATT.

To the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

XCVII.—THE MINISTERS OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

After our former letters, our Supplication written in the favours of the Town here, some thing was done be them for your Maiesties contentment, wherewith we thought good to acquaint your Highnes. They, perceiving your Maiesties displeasure to arise upon their former election of a Provost, did hasten to some speedie remedie, that their offer of amendement should not be compted verball only, and have this day, the fifteenth of this infant November, made election of Sir John Arnot to be their Provost for the yeir to come: Whilk doing of theirs dois furnish to us greater boldnes with your Maiestie, and makis us with the greater earnestnes to renew our former humble sute, that it may please your Maiestie accept of this amends, with our promise, in their name, of

greater warinesse in all tyme cumming. It has ever bene your Maiefties custome to gaine by clemencie, and recall offenders, gif thair pertinacie did not thraw from your Maiefties hand rigour and extremitie. Upon this your Maiefties clemencie wee rest in this particular, that having to doe with them who are feared in any fort to incurre your Maiefties displeasure, and whose only frowning keipis them in sufficient aw, there may be, in steid of your Maiefties hatred or anger toward them (whereat their unfriends would rejoice), a continuance of your Maiefties woonted love and favour. Thus, craving pardon for our boldnes, we humbly tak our leave. Edinburgh, 15 November 1608.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient subjects,

JO. HALL.

M. P. HEWATT.

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie.

XCVIII.—THE PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

In the lait Generall Assemblie of the Kirk of this your Majesties Kingdome, halden at Linlithcow, your Majesties declared will and affection both by word and writ, to the strenghtening of that true religion presentlie professèd, and to the suppressing of Papistis and Papistrie to the uttermost, did breid no small joy and contentment in the hearts of all honest subjects fearing God and loving your Majestie. Who, although they had never cause to expect from your Majestie any vther resolution, yet in this time of the increas and pride of the enemies, it was to us all great encouragement to see your Majesties zeale wakened for execution of the lawes against them, with greater readines and extremitie, then at any time heretofore. We have also heard of your Majesties gracious acceptance and favourable approbation of sik Overtures as wer then devised, and now of lait presented to your Highnes, for redressing and preventing the present and apparent evils of this Kirk and Religion here

professed, and withstanding of the aduersare. The prosecution of a pairt, whereof your Majestie hes happelic begun, in kything your Majesties iust anger, without exception of persons, against sik as the Kirk here hes at last bene forced to cut of and excommunicat from her societie, as in the imprisonment of some of the greatest rank, and decreed banishment of others appeiris: for all whilk doing, as we cannot but render most heartie thankis to our God, and acknowledge his blessing toward us in your Majestie, so doe we find our obligation increased to meete your Majestie in all possible gratitude and duetic, according to the bounds of our vocation, most humble intreating your Majestie, that this so good a wark, so well begun, and wiselic as yet followed foorth, be not interrupted nor left off; till it be brought to some good fine and perfection, that the proud and obstinat being sufficiently humbled, and the horns of the wicked, that doe puth against Christ, and your Majestie his Anointed, cutted down, there may be peace and health in Sion, and prosperitie within all your Majesties boundes.

The great gladnes of all your Majesties best subjects in all ranks here wakened, upon the same beginnings, the feare and astonishment of the enemies, with the speciall and extraordinar takings of Gods mercy and favour shawin, at this same time, toward your Majestie, seeme to be great allurements and provocations to your Majestie without fainting to proccede in those most holy purposes. For wee assure our selves that among the many deliveries of God granted to your Highnes from extreame perils and daungers, your Majestie doeth reckon, with all your good subjects, this late worke inferior to none of them, in freeing your Majestie from the vile imputations of the Pape and his Clergie, as thought it had ever bene your Majesties intention to dissemble in that cause, whilk we know your Majestie dois esteeme dearer then your life. It is the Lord to whome you trust that clearis the cause of his own, and makis their righteousnes to brek out like the noone day. Wee doubt not bot your Majestie now does see clearlie both the falsheid and crueltie of all that sect; and so may easilie consider whidder any of that broode be worthie of oversight or favour. This last fifth of November was here with great solemnitie observed; swa that there did even appeare among all your Majesties good people ane extraordinarie motion and earnestnes,

as to thank God for that notable deliverie, swa to commend to him the protection of your Majesties sacred person, being so much the more stirred up to thir duties for the time to come, both by the report and sight of your Majesties honest proceedinge, as also of the daylie manifested spite and malice of the adversaries against your Majestie. Thus commending your Majesties royall persone and estait to the blessing of the Almighty, we humbly tak our leave. Edinburgh, 15 November 1608.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient subjects,

THE BRETHREN OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF EDINBURGH.

HENRIE CHARTERIS.

M. CRANSTOUN.

M. RICHARDUS DICKSONE.

M. RO^t. RUTHURFURD.

MR MATTHEW LICHTONE.

M. H. BLYTHE.

JO. HALL, Moderator.

WALTER BALCANQUALL.

M. P. HEWATT.

CHARLES LUMMISDENE.

WILLIAME ARTHURE.

MR JA. MUREHEID.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

XCIX.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

SIR, MAY IT PLEASE YOUR SACRED AND MOST GRATIOUS MAJESTIE :

The preferment whiche I have received of your Maiesties greate and vnderferued favour, to be called and reputed Bischope of Orkney and Zetland, the many greate and continuall complaintis of your Maiesties poore distressed subjects in those Isles, my Christian compassion of thair miseries, and most speciallie the sincere affectionne and reuerend regarde whiche I haue, and euer shall beare, to your Maiesties heighe honour and trew glorie, befor God and men, both for the tyme present and to come, hes moued me to present upon my kneis, by this letter suppleing my absence, my most humble and ferious Supplicationne in favouris of those distressed and oppressed people, that it will please your Maiestie now at

last to be so touched with princelie pitie towards thame, that by your Maiesties greate wisdome, and Royall power and autoritie, some comfort and reliefe may be provided and procured unto thame. Alace, deare and dreade Soueraigne! trowlie it is to be pitied, that so many your Maiesties subiects ar so manifoldlie and grevoullie oppressed; some by ejectione and banishment from thair houses and native soile; otheris by contorting the lawis and extorting thair goodis, the most parte being so impouerished, that some of thame nather darre nor may complene, bot in silent and forced patience grones vnder thair grevances, as hoples of help; otheris ar compelled, with greate trouble, danger, and damage to thair poore persones and estates, to seeke remedie be ordinarie iustice, whiche when they haue obtened, they must neuertheles, through proud contempt and lacke of executione, ather thus molest your Maiestie, as the only strength and stay of thair hopes vnder God, or els be vtterlie disappointed and lose all. The Bearer can and will informe and qualifie the particularis, and I, who am able at this tyme to do thame no other goode nor comfort, and hes so long and earnestlie bene solicted be thame, dois now prostrate myself at your Majesties feete in thair behalf, not in humble ambitious nor in conered couetousnes, intending and aiming be the correctione of that Nobleman,¹ to seeke the erectione of my base estate and poore fortune, bot ones to acquyte myself of that dewtie whiche, as I think, God, my conscience, my calling, your Majesties favouris towardis me, and the fidelitie of my bounden service dois requyre at my hand, being als readie to retein myself to my former privat conditione, if it fall not displease your Maiestie, as I haue and salbe most willing and obedient to go forwardis against all dangeris and difficulties, in discharging my vnworthie service heir or thair whair it fall please your Majestie [to] command.

In end, I humble beseeche your gracious Maiestie, if thair be any jott or title heir to offend your Heighnes, pardonne my imprudencie, and respect with favourable countenance this my petitione whiche I presumed to send up to your Majestie, upon no other warrand than the certane knowlege and experience whiche I haue of the pietie, iustice, wisdome,

¹ The long continued oppressions and tyrannical proceedings of Patrick Earl of Orkney led to his imprisonment, and his subsequent trial and execution for high treason.

etc., whairwith God hath indued and adorned your Maieftie; whiche all and euerie one do joyne thamefelves with my humble Supplicatione, and do call upon your Maiefties Royall power for help and comfort to thofe wounded and greved memberis (thocht farre diftant) of your Heighnes politique body. Sir, I do not ufe heir the foure fweetnes of flatering wordis, bot from my harte dois praife God, who hath graced and bliffed your Maieftie; and fall fill pray, that he may multiplie more and more his bliffings upon your Sacred perfone, royall ftate, and happie government, and crowne your Maieftie with the crowne of glorie.

Edinburgh, 17 Novemb. 1608.

Your Maiefties verie loyall fubject and moft humble fervand,

To his Sacred and moft
excellent Majestie.

J. A. BISCHOP OF ORCADS.

C.—KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO SIR JOHN HOUSTONE.

JAMES R.

Truffy and welbeloued, We greeete you well. The reporte made to Us by the Commissioners of the late Generall Affembly of the proceedings therein, and of the greate zeale and affection kythed in all fortes of perfons there for the advancement of God's glorie and fuppreffion of the common enemy, and alfo of the happie vnity and concorde amongft the Clergy, did giue Vs no fmall occation of joy and contentment, that in this laft age of the worlde, wherein error and fuperftition abroade had taken fo greate rooting, neuertheles, in thefe Our dominions, God hath bene pleased to referve to himfelfe a handfull who had neuer bowed the knee to Baal. And as We acknowledge Our felfe, in dewty to Our God, bound to be a nurfing father of His Church, a protectour of all trew profefours, and a perfecutour of all the enemyes of the trewth, that fo they may eyther be reclaimed, or then brought to

that case as they may be no more feared, seeing all those who are affected to this Romish superstition may justlie be suspected as dangerous subiectes in the estate, so for the better countenanceing of the proceedings of the General Assembly, We haue appoynted a Convention of the Estates of that Our Kingdome, to mete at Edinburgh the xxvj of Januarie next, to the effecte that suche thinges as may furder the advancement of the Gospell and suppressing of the enemy may be then treated of, advised, and concluded, wherein there shalbe no want either of Our good wille, power, or authority, desiring yow hereby to be present thereat, and to vter your loving care and affection to the well of that Church. And becaus We haue appoynted a preceeding meting of some selected oute of every estate to be at the same place the xxiiij of Januarie before, and having made choice of yow for one of that number. We desire yow also boith to keepe the time appoynted, and to kyth still as yee haue done affectioned to the religion presentlie profess, wherein yee shall do Vs acceptable seruice, and so Wee bid yow farewell. From Our Court at Thetford, the 24 of November 1608.

To Our trusty and welbeloued
[the Laird of] of Houstoun.

CI.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING
JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR GRATIOUS MAJESTIE,

Wee haue received ane humble Supplication from Mr James Balfour,¹ declaring to us his good disposition toward the peace and quiet-

¹ Balfour had been one of the Ministers of Edinburgh since the year 1589, when he was translated from the united parishes of Guthrie and Idvie. After the Conference at Hampton Court, in September 1606, he was allowed to reside for a short time at Cockburnspath. The above supplication in his behalf, that he might have liberty to return to his flock, had no effect in conciliating the King's favour; and having been ordered to remove to the North of Scotland, he only reached Inverkeithing, where, in consequence of the infirmities of age and disease, he remained until his death.—(Calderwood's Hist., vol. vi. p. 668.)

nes of the Kirk, according to the last ordour taken at Linlithcow, together with the testimony of fyndrie our Brethren, who, after conference with him, hes certified us of his peaceable inclination, like as the Brethren of the Presbyterie of Edinburgh is becom'd furetie, in his name, to that effect. In respect whereof, we humble entreate your Highnes, that of your wonted clemencie he may be sett at libertie, and with your Majesties favour restored again to his flok, whose desolate estait hes greit neede of the supplemant of his travells. And thus commending your Highnes to the blessing of God, and hartily praying for your Highnes long and prosperous reigne, we humble take our leave.

Edinburgh, 25 November 1608.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient
subiects and daylie orators,

M. P. GALLOWAY.	AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.	SANCTANDROIS.
P. SYMSONE.	JO. HALL.	DUNKELD.
MR JO. KNOX.	M. WILLIAM COWPER.	B. GALLOWAY.
M. A. BELLENDEN.	M. WILLIAM SCOTT.	JA. B. OF ORCADS.
		M. A. BRECHIN.
		DUMBLANE.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CH.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING
JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR GRATIOUS MAJESTIE,

Wee haue received ane humble Supplication from Mr John Murray,¹ declaring to us his good disposition toward the peace and quietnes

¹ See the previous letters, Nos. LXXVI. and LXXVII., and the foot-note to page 123. At this time Murray was confined to the Castle of Edinburgh; and it will be seen that, after various changes, he was permitted, in the year 1616, to become one of the Ministers of Dunfermline.

of the Kirk, according to the laft ordour taking at Linlithcow, together with the testimony of fyndry our Brethren, who after conference with him, hes not only certified us that he is greitlie displeas'd with the printing of that Sermon which bred your Highnes displeasure, but also assured us of his fairfaid peaceable inclination. Like as, the Brethren of the Presbyterie of Edinburgh are becom'd furetie in his name, to that effect. In respect whereof, we humblie entreate your Highnes that, of your wonted clemencie, he may be fet at libertie, and, with your Majesties favour, restor'd againe to his flock, whose desolate estate hes great neede of the supplement of his travels. And thus commending your Highnes to the blessing of God, and heartlie praying for your Highnes long and prosperous reigne, we humblie tak our leave.

Edinburcht, 25 November 1608.

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient
subjects and daylie orators,

JA. B. OF ORCADS, Moderator.

M. P. GALLOWAY.	JO. HALL.	DUNKELD.
P. SYMSONE.	M. WILLIAM SCOTT.	A. B. CATHNES.
M. WILLIAM COWPER.	ANDRO BOYD.	B. GALLOWAY.
M. A. BELLENDEN.	M. JO. KNOX.	DUMBLANEN.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CHL.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING
JAMES.

SIR,

May it please your Sacred and Gracious Majestie: Wee, the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, being convey'd here, the 23 and 25 day of this instant, to tak particular tryall of Sir Alexander Drummond his disposition in religion, according to your Majesties direc-

tion, hes found, be the depofition and confeffion of the faid Sir Alexander, that he, in his firft and fecond journeys to France and Italy, and induring his abiding in thofe countreys, was under the difcipline of the Jefuites, drawing to their religion, heard and faw the Maffe, and unrefolved in any article of the trueth all that time, untill his returning from Italic, which was about the yeir 1593. And albeit the faid Sir Alexander hes alledged, that immediately after his returning he was, by two or three dayes conference had with Mr Robert Bruce, refolved of all his doubtles, and did thereupon fubferive privatly in the faid Mr Robert's hous; yet nevertheles, we having fearched and fighted all the rolls that can be had, and finding in them no appearance of his alledged fubfcription, or any testimony theirol, cannot upon our confeience and dutie toward God and your Majeftie, declair the faid Sir Alexander to be found and un-fufpect in religion, efpecially feing and confidering that he hes ever had, fince his faid returning to this realme, his moft familiar and entire converfation with fuch perfons as now God, of his greit favour toward your Majeftie, hes revealed to have bene more affected toward Papiftrie then to the trueth of God, which they fallie professed, even by all thofe outward formes of hearing, communicating, fubferiving, and fwearing, whereby they cover their hypocrifie for favour or preferment, and deludis the eyes and judgements of men. As alfo, in refpect that the Act of Linlithcow, which your Majeftie hes gratioffie allowed, ftandis againft him. And wee, Sir, for our parts, thought moft willing in all humble dutie and fervice to obey and fatiffie the leaft of your Majefties commands or defires, yet, having the eyes and hearts of all men prying and obferving our doings, confidering his former cariage in religion, noted and ftained with apoftatic and inconfancie, and feing no evidence of any certane refolution or fincere affection in him (howfoever all be offred and pretended for prefent preferment which can be required), cannot, without greit offense of all your Majefties beft affected fubjects here, and without evident and fhamefull breache, even in *ipfo limine*, of that Act, and godlie and profitable courfe which your Majeftie hes moft happellie begun againft the Papifts, gif unto him at this time any testimonie for his advancement. Moft humbly befeeching your gratioffie Majeftie favourable to accept of this our upright and impartial dealing with the faid

Sir Alexander, in which we have had none other respect, but nixt to Gods glory, your Majesties true honour, the good of the Kirk, the contentment of all your Majesties good subjeets, and ane faithfull discharge of our confciences and dutie.

And becaufe we have so many greit and certane proofes both of Gods speciall favour toward your Majesties unspotted honour, as also of your Majesties sinceritie and princelie cair for maintening of the true religion, and suppressing the adversaries theirow, we cannot forget to present hereby our most humble and heartie thanks to your Highnes, and fall never cease, so long as we live, to pray for your peace, and to endeavour, in all dutie and service which possible we can, to approve our selues your Majesties most loving and faithfull subjeets; out of which dutie of our subjection and calling, after our best advise, and foreseeing the greit necessitie and expedience theirow, wee thought it meete humble and earnestlie to entreate your Majesties favour for ane warrand and direction to us to call before us, at certane times, all such Noblemen as ar professed Papists, against whome their severall Presbyteries have nather sufficient judgement nor authoritie to proceede, as, namely, the Erls of Caitlines, Southerland, Perth, the Lord Sanchar, and others of the like qualitie or condition: And that it may please your gracious Majestie to cause all Civill lawes and penalties of horning, confiscation, and disposition of liferents, to be preciselie execute against those Noblemen, and others, gentlemen of inferior degree, who are ather excommunicat lawfully already, or shall hereafter be; without which executions the sentence of excommunication will be contemned in their pride and contumacie, and their wardings accompted an benefite rather then an punishment. And lest we shuld be tedious and troublesome to your Majestie by long letter, we will at this time beseeche your Majestie for this onelie one thing more, that some Commissions may be granted to such noblemen and gentlemen of divers places of this countrey as your Majestie, in your own wisdom, knowis to be best affected and most meete to searche and apprehend those corner-creeping Jesuites and Preists, who, notwithstanding all which is done, ceasis not to animate their profelytes, and to goe about by sea and land, which is the Devils compasse, to gaine moe untable soules to their cursed erue. Most

humble craving your Majesties pardon for this our boldnes, wee beseeche God from our hearts to preserve your Majestie from all evill, to bless your Majestie with health, peace, and prosperitie in this life, and with eternall glorie in the life to come.

Edinburgh, 25 Novemb. 1608.

Your Majesties most humble and faithfull subiects,

JA. B. OF ORCADS, Moderator.

M. P. GALLOWAY.	AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.	SANCTANDROIS.
P. SYMSONE.	M. WILLIAM COWPER.	DUNKELD.
M. A. BELLENDEN.	JO. HALL.	B. GALLOWAY.
M. JO. KNOX.	M. WILLIAM SCOTT.	DUMBLANEN.
		M. A. BRECHIN.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CIV.—SIR ALEXANDER DRUMMOND OF MEDHOPE TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERAIGNE,

Maye it please your Sacred Maiestie: Vpon the deliuerie of your Hienes Letter to the Bishop of Orknay, he did wreate to ane sufficient number of the Commiffionares, and assigned to them the 23 of this instant to meete at Edinburgh; where having conveened very frequentlie, and I (conforme to your Maiesteis good pleasour), wring my tryall, I have bene examined, from my verie infancie, be my solempne oathe, and hes particularlie impairted wnto thair wisdomes the hail progres of my aëiones the tyme of my peregrinatioum; the double wheroff I have fend heirwith subseryued, be Mr Johne Haye, vpon necessitie, as your Maiestie maye confidder in the end of the same. Wherin, althocht I may be accompted too light in my youth to be so variable caried, yet my tender age being confidderit, the difficulties of tymes, and the humours of the people which delt with me, I hope your gracious Maiestie

will dispens thairwith. And being so hardely posed and deeplie sworne. I willed rather seeme fraile nor periure. Whowe willing I am, and euer hes beene thir last 12 or 15 yeares of my age, to give the Church satisfacion, I have declared and craved; and what distrust thay conceave (notwithstanding of my oath and pure confession) thair rigorous answer declaires. As I have appealed from thair hard censure (grounded onlie vpon suspicion) to your Hienes elemencie, so now, in all humilitie, I crave that your gracious Maiestie maye be pleased, seing he your Hienes specciall favour I wes anes thought capable of that place of Judicature, and worthy to enjoye the same, wherfra, efter triall of my qualification, I have beene so long suspendit, that some more mylde cours maye be taken for my admision; protesting before God, that the delaye of this my intendit preferrement¹ proceedeth more of malicions calumnies nor any essentiall offence: seing thir 15 yeares last bypast, if any man princlie or publictly admonished or accused me for my behaviour in Religion to the tyme, be your Maiesties gracious favour, my presentation wes exped, it shall be capitall. Neuertheles I am condampned vniuersallie, and censured publictly. Bot my former actiones, with the earnest desyre I haue to do your Maiestie acceptable seruice, shall some day (God willing) abolishe the memorie of these imputatioues. *Si peccati suspicio meretur panam*, I beleive it shall be impossible to any of your Maiesties subiectis to travaill in forrayne partis with suretie. Cesing to trubbill your Maiesteis gracious cares, and reposing vpon your Hienes accustomed regarde to loyall and ductifull subiectis, in all humilitie, I kisse your Maiesteis handis, prayand the Eternall to continew your Hienes prosperons estate, with long lyff and ioyfull success, as

Your Maiesties moift obedient subiect and humble seruiteur,

Halyrudhous, 27 Nouemb. 1608.

S. A. DRUMMOND.

For the Kingis most Excellent Maiestie.

¹ Drummond of Medhope had obtained from the King a presentation to a seat on the bench as a Lord of Session, but the proceedings against his "near cousin," Lord Balmerinoch, tended to increase those suspicions in regard to his profession of religion, alluded to in this and the preceding letter.

CV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

[Sir James Elphinstone, Secretary, and afterwards President of the Court of Session, was created Lord Balmerinoch in 1604: See page 108. After his examination before the Privy Council of England, his Lordship was sent prisoner to Scotland, where he was tried and condemned for high treason, on account of the styles of “Sanctitas” and “Filius” having been inserted in a letter addressed to Pope Clement VIII. in 1598, to which he had previously obtained the King’s signature. The whole proceedings, with various illustrative documents, have been diligently collected by Mr Pitcairn, and published in his Criminal Trials, (vol. ii. pages 568 to 604.) The trial took place at St Andrews, 10th March 1609, Sir William Hart, Justice-Depute, presiding, his assessors the Earls of Dunbar, Wigton, Montrose, Lothian, &c. Lord Balmerinoch has left a very interesting relation of his Troubles. (Calderwood’s History, vol. vi. pp. 789—818, and vol. vii. pp. 10—15.): He distinctly accuses Spottiswood, Archbishop of Glasgow, along with the Earl of Wigton and Sir Alexander Hay, as the chief instigators to procure his downfall.]

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We refflaue your Maiefties lettre of the xxj of Nouember, and hes hard at grite lenth, the relation maid by the reuerend Father in God, and your Maiefties trustye counfellow, the Archebifchop of Glasgou, anent the confessioun, and hole circumstanceis, of that long obfcured and moft haynous and inexcufable offence committit be the Lord of Balmerinoch aganis your credite, honour and reputatioun, quhairin as fenfible and feeling memberis of fo glorious and gracious a head, finding oure awne intereffe, greif and forrow, that your Maiefties moft famous and vnspotted name, honnour and credite (whiche your Heynes to this houre hes fo religiouffie confervit in all puritie), fould haue bene fo vnworthelie, and in fo heich a point broght in questioun by ony of our nomber, who hes that honnour to be selected be your Maieftie to the cheif credite of your feruice heir. So, with moft joyfull, humble and thankfull hairtis to God, we acknowledge that grite bliffing and benefeit, whiche it hes pleasit his divine Maieftie to showe vnto your Heynes, by the deteeting and discoverie of that purpois, and vindicating the sinceritie and innocencie of your royall hairt, frome all fuffitioun of the wrangous and vniust imputationis, whilkis your Heynes vndirly thairin, manifesting thairby, his diuine cair and prouidence, which he hes evir had over your faced per-

fone, honour and estate, and in what deteliation he holdeth all practizeis and purpois preinditall thairvnto. And wheras in the censuring of this fact befor your Maiesteis honourable Preuy Counsaill of that Kingdome, thay (be your Maiesteis direccioun we doubt not) haue remittit the full tryall thairof to the lawis and formis of this cuntrey, with mony demonstratiounis and oppin spcecheis, twiching the goode opinioun thay haif of the equitie of our lawis, and sinceritie of oure affectionis, in all your Maiesteis seruiceis, we haif not onlie infinite occasioun, with all humilitie, first to thank your Sacred Maiestie, and nixt thame, for so respectiue a referatioun to us of that whiche your Maiestie knowis to be dew to the priuilege and freedome of this your antient and nobill Crowne; bot we hoip, God willing, to gif vnto your Maiestie a prooffe, that with all fidelitie, cair and sinceritie, we fall prosequute and follow oute whateuir it fall pleas your Sacred Maiestie, in your princelie wisdome, to command, alswее in this as in ony vther thing els, twicheing your Heynes in honour and estate. And in the meantyme, yf ony of your Maiesteis subiectis hes bene or falbe so vndentifull, foolishlie, and vnworthie, as to gif out ony fals brwteis or rumours, aganis the vndoubtit treuth and veritie of this mater, or to the extenuating thairof in ony point, we fall not fail to exaetlie to examine, try and pvnishe the same, as vtheris falbe terrifeit to fall in the lyke error thairefter. And sua praying God still to vpholde your Maiestie with all your Royall progenie, vnder his diuyn and faderlic protectioun and faulsgaird, we rest for euir,

Your Maiesteis most humble and obeydent
subiectis and seruitouris,

J. CORBURNE.	SIR RO. KER.	SANCTANDROIS.	AL. CANCELL.
P. ROLLOK.	JO. PRESTOUN.	TORPHECHIN.	MAR.
R. CORBURNE.	ROBERT MELVILL.	BEWLY.	PERTHE.
SR. TH. HAMILTON.	GAIRLEIS. ¹	ROSS.	LOTHIANE.
		BURCLUGHE.	HALYRUDHOUS.

Edinburgh, the faxt of December 1608.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

¹ This signature is not very distinct, and may possibly be some other name.

CVI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO KING JAMES.

SIRE,

Pleis your Maieftie : The paine whiche I haif takin, at your Maiefties commandement, to gather a note of the penfionnis difponit furth of your Hienes rentis of this Kingdome, hes bred in me a defyr to proceed in the work of the Exchequer, and withal gifin a hope of effecting fume profitable fervice to your Maieftie ; for being ftayit at Edinburgh, thir four or fyve dayis pait, about the forfaid bufines, I haif turnit ovr fume bookis of former accomptis, and fund thairin many thingis for tym cumming maift nedful to be reformed : Of whiche certain moft principal I haif fent to my Lord the Erle of Dumbar, to be presentit to your Maieftie, that be your Hienes warrand the Lordis joynt in Commiffioun may be vrgit with the profequitioun thairof. Your Maiefties commandement, in thir materis, wil purchafe a griter regard to our proceeding, and lykwyfe minifche invy, whiche can be no leffe againft us then otheris that interpryfit the fervice before ; but the peril is, thankis to God, muche leffe, be the present ftrenth of your Maiefties arme, God hafing put the fear of your Maieftie vpon al men in thir partis. Sir, it is not the leift parte of a Kingdomes happines to haif the King riche and wealthie ; it gifis authoritie in peace, and makis him fearful to his enemyis in tym of warre ; and what fubicctis had ever fo grit caufe to wifche the wealthe of thair Kinge, as we, who haif al of us (innumerable in euery eftate) profit your Hienes liberalitie and princelie munificence ; or when fal it be, if not at this tym, when God hes bleffit your Maieftie with two moft worthie Treafureris, noble men wyfe, difcreit, and abuf al, faithfull ; nether is this your Maiefties Kingdom, how mean foeuer in comparifoun of that other, vn furnifhit of revenewis fufficient to mantein the royaltie thairof, fo as the famin be rightlie orderit. For my felf, it wes your Maiefties commandement that enterit me in this fervice, and I falbe loath not to indeavour my vttermoſt for the advancing of the fam ; at leift I falbe forward and faythful, caring for this one thing, even to do that whiche is pleafing and acceptable to

your Maieftie. God Almyghtie preferve your Hienes in longe and happie lyf.

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient fervant,

Edinburgh, the 29 of
December 1608.

GLASGOW.

To his moft Excellent Maieftie.

CVII.—WILLIAM CREICHTON, JESUIT, [TO SIR ANDREW MURRAY.†]

RIGHT WORSHIPFULL SIR,

My humble and heartlie dewtye rememberit, I haif hard with my extreme dolour the extremeties to the whilkis Sir James Elphingstoun, Prefident of the Seffion of Scotland, is reduced, for the letter sent to the Pope and Cardinalis by Mr Ednard Drummond, and speciallye becaus the Prefident is fo neir to you by alliance. As twiching the Prefidentis confefsioun to haif sent the dispatche to Pope and Cardinalis, without his Maiefties consent or commandment, I will not mell me with that nor any thing what it may meritt. *Bot becaus I assisted Mr Ednard Drummond in all that negotiatioun*, thinking it to be to the Kingis weill and fervice, and communicatioun of all the letters that was broght for that effairis, I thocht it expedient to informe you of the veritie of all. There was no thing wrought in that negotiatioun which was not thocht to be for the Kingis Maiefties fervice, which was to procure the Bifhops of Wefone² advancement to the degrie of Cardinall, to the end that his Maieftie fuld haif in the Colledge of Cardinalis one of his trew and faithfull fubiectis to advance his Maiefties fervice, and dafche

† This letter has no address: Mr Pitcairn conjectures, from the allusion to Viscount Fenton at the close of the letter, that it was written to Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird.

William Cheisholme, Bishop of Dunblane, having been forfeited and deprived of his benefice, in 1573, afterwards became Bishop of Vaison, in France. He published a volume, dedicated to King James (as a refutation of the National Confession of Faith, 1580), entitled "Examen Confessionis Fidei Calviniana," etc. Avenione, 1601, small 8vo. A French translation of this work appeared at Paris in 1604.

and stop that which might be to his prejudice; and specially that they shuld not excommunicat his Maiestie, or absolue his subiectis from his obedience, as there was sone at that same tyme biffie to procure it, and therefoir was alledgit that suche rigorons proceedingis in other Popes dayes did not advance but hinder the Catholick cause, and therefore Pope Gregorius 13th was constrained to grant to the Catholick to acknowledge and obey the last Queene of England in all thingis, which was expresselie againt the Catholick faith. *It was not gevin to understand to the Pope that the Kingis Maiestie was in any dispositioun ather to come, or favour the Catholick religioun, for the contrair was conteyned expreslie in the Letteris:* (And sicker service, who ever had done it ather with or without commissioun, apperis to merit rather thankes and reward nor hard treatment :) *Saying, that albeit he remaned constant in that religioun in the which he was nurished from his cradle, yet he wald not be enemye and persecutour of the Catholikes, so long as they shuld remaine faithfull and obedient subiectis to him.* As inleid his Maiestie had ever doone, vntill the horrible and barbarous Conspiracie of the Gooneponder. For in Scotland, to thame of our Ordour who ar holden the most odious and persecuted to the deathe be the Ministeris, he did never vie more rigour, nor to banishe thame out of the countrey, and constrain there parentis to obleis thame, vnder paines, to caus thame depart.¹ The calumneis of some passioned writteris, and speciallie of him who answeris to the Apologie or traité, entituled “*Trino nodo triplex eunus,*” who unproperatis to the Kingis Maiestie to wald haif deceaved the Pope, to whome he gave hoipe to favour or embrace the Catholick Religioun, is onlie to disgrace in what he may the Kingis Maiesteis self, *and some Catholikes, whome they haitt without iust cause, without veritie or charitie;* which shuld not be imputed to all Catholikes, nor to the Cardinall Ballarmine, who is not authour of that booke. Amongst the Catholikes ar many honest men, affectioned to his Maiesteis service in all thingis they may with goode conscience and faistie of the Catholick religioun, amongst whome

¹ In this the writer could speak from his own experience: On the 8th May 1599, “*William Creichton, brother to the Laird of Innernytie,*” having refused to subscribe the Confession of Faith, the Presbytery of Edinburgh ordered him either to do so, within two months, or to leave the country.—(Presbytery Minutes.)

I wald not be the hindnest, as I haif enir bene and falbe to my lyves end. And heir I leif to truble your Worſhip, with my humble and heartly recommendationnis redoublet to your goode affectionne, as to my Lord Vicount of Fentoun, your vncle.¹ From Amignon, the 27 of Januarie 1609.

Your Worſhip moſt humble and affectioned
Conſeing and fervant,

WILLIAME CREICHTOUN.

CVIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

This Conventioun of your Maieſteis Eſteatis, whiche your Heynes, oute of your moſt gracious and religious diſpoſitioun, towards the advancement of the trew antient Apoſtolik faith, preſentlie profeſſit in this Kingdome, and for ſuppreſſing the aduerſaris thair of, did appoint to be haldin at this tyme, wes moſt ſolemnelie keipit be the Nobilmen and vtheris ſelectit be your Maieſtie for that purpois, few or none of the haill being abſent: Vnto whome thoſe grave, wyſe, and godlie Overtouris and propoſitionis ſend down be your Maieſtie, alſweele for Kirk as Policie, being at grite lenth proponned and oppynnit vp, we can not conceale from your Heynes the exceiding grite joy and glaidnes whiche that haill meiting apprehendit vpoun the conſideratioun of ſo lyvelie raikynis and argumentis of the tender cair and faderlie affection, wherewith your Maieſtie doeth ſtill affect thame, whairin thay and we do acknowledge oure ſelfiſ infinitie boundin to the goodnes of oure God, who, in his grite merce, hes grantit vnto ws ſo gracious, religious, and comfortable a King, vnder whoſe bliſſit and happy gouernament we haif ſo grite peace in our Kirk, and ſo grite tranquillitie in oure privat eſteatis; that althocht your Maieſtie be abſent in perſone, yitt the con-

¹ Sir Thomas Erskine of Gogar, was created Viſcount Fentoun, in 1606, and Earl of Kellie, 12th March 1619.

fortable effectis of your Royall prefence, by your royall and holefome direktionis, doeth ever accompany us; for the whiche, with all dewerence, in name of the hail Esteatis (who, with mony protestationis, offerrit thame selfis redde with thair hail power and freindfchip to hald hand to the furtherance and executionn of all your Maieftis princelie direktionis) we rander vnto your Heynes our most humble thankis. All thofe direktionis and propositionis, bothe for Kirk and Policie, wer most vnanimelie imbraceit, and accordinglie inacted. Onlie that anent the reuiffing, whiche your Maieftie hes so gravelie and wyfelie fett downn in feuerall brancheis and headis, hes refiauit a delay till this approcheing Parliament, becaus the panes and pyniffement, anfuferable to the qualitie of thofe feuerall brancheis and headis, could not, in respect of the fehortnes of tyme, refiaue a prefent determinationn. Alwayes, commiffioun is gevin to certane for enery Eftate, to meete and reafoun upoun that mater, and to repourt thair opinioun to the Parliament, wherein we ar of opinioun that the ordour fo wyfelie preferyved be your Maieftie, falbe the fquair and reule of thair doings. Off all that wes past and inacted at this meiting we haif fend the copyis to Sir Alexander Hay, your Maieftis Secretarie, to be fhawne to your Hyenes: And fwa ending with our humble and hairy prayeris to God for the preferuationn of your Sacred Maieftie, and your Royall progenye in all happynes and felicitie, we rest for ever.

Your Maieftis most humbill and obedyent
fubiectis and fervitouris,

AL. CANCELL ^s .	DOWNBAR.	CRAFORD.	MAR.
GLENCAIRNE.	LINLYTHGOW.	WIGTOUN.	CASSILLIS.
SALTOUNE.	A. WCHILTRIE.	BLANTYRE.	KINGORNE.
R. COKBURNE.	S ^r . T. HAMILTON.	J. COKBURNE.	LOTHIANE.
P. ROLLOK.			HALYRUDIHOUS.

Edinburgh, 28 Januarij 1609.

To the Kingis most Excellent Maieftie.

CIX.—MR JOHN PRESTOUN OF FENTOUNBARNES TO KING JAMES.

MAIST SACREID AND MAIST GRACIOUSE SOVERAIN,

Fallowing the command of your Maiesties lait letter, I haife send vpe to your Maiesties trustie Confeller and Secretair, Sir Alexander Hays, ane cataloge of the Patronagis of all the Kirkis neulie dispoit be Infestmentis fen your Maiestie goinge furth of this your Hiechnes realme of Scotland: exceptinge onlie sic as pertenis to the Prelacies erectit, quherof your Maiestie, be their Infestmentis, hes reservit to your Hiechnes selfe the nominatioun of the Ministeris to be presentit to the curis of the saidis Kirkis. Quhilkis, gif it be your Maiesties will nochtwithstandinge to haif severallie and in particuler send vpe, vpon the notice of your Hiechnes plefour theiranent, they salbe at your Maiestie with all expeditioun. Quhat farther can pertain or lyie in me to the obedience of your Maiesties plefour, as it is deulie and absolutlie your Maiesties awin, sa fall it ever preiffe, God willing, maist faythfullie furthecommand and reddie to the furtherance of quhatsumever service your Hiechnes employment fall charge me withall, as ane quha fall ever praye to the Almychtie for ane lang and prosperoufe reigne to your maist Gracious Maiestie, and fall ever continue,

Your Maiesties maist faythfull and obedient
subiect and humble servand,

Edinburgh, the x of
Februer 1609,

JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis maist Excellent Maiestie.

¹ Prestoun of Fentounbarnes, latterly of Pennyuik, was admitted an Advocate about the year 1575, and was raised to the Bench in 1595. He was subsequently appointed Collector-General of Augmentations; and in June 1609, was promoted to be Bahmerinoch's successor, as President of the Court of Session. He died in June 1616.

CX.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUSE SOVERAIGNE,

We cannot expresse the joy and contentment quilk bothe we and other your Maiesties gud subiectis in thir partis haif confavit, be the answeris returnit from your Hienes to the petitions of the lait General Assëmblie, and the happie beginningis of this Conventioun, for effecting the sam, at your Maiesties command and directioun ; for the quliche, as we haif directit our Brother,¹ the berar heirof, in al our namis, to render vnto your Maiestie most humble and hartie thankis, so be him we ar humble to intreat the continewance of your Hienes favour in the constant prosequitioun of thir effairis : be quliche we do not onlie expect a ful overthrow of the Popisehe coursis heir, but also be thir meanis, we trust to find ane easie progresse in the rest of your Maiesties service, committit to ws, for the Kirk : and if be one labour we may bring about two so gud workis, we hope your Maiestie wil think we haif reason to insit and persue the more earnestlie this busines ; especiallie ghen as we find the enemyis of our religioun grow daylie in pryde and insolencie. nothing humblit with ony thing that yit is done or intendit, but scoffing rather at all your Maiesties proceedingis, and bragging, as is thair maner, that this tempest wil not continew, and that it wil pruit but a gowk storm (for thir be the wordis, Sire, that thai commonlie vse). What is notwithstanding our care for reducing tham in the right way, we mean the two headis of that factioun that ar now in ward, al men haif sen. ghen as, vnrequyrit be tham in ony forte, we did direct of our number, from the meting of the Commissiouneris, a certain to conferre and reason with tham vpon the dangeris thay had throwen tham selfis into be thair obstinacie against the trewth, and vpon the meanis of thair reclaning, offering for our partis al that culd be don to thair better resolutioun ; yit nothing hes availit. To hear fermonis, altho the sam hes ben vrgit vpon the Marques be Mr Patrik Simson,² thai wil not aggre ; conference

¹ Gavin Hamilton, Bishop of Orkney.

² See P. Symson's letter, p. 192.

thai defyre none, and ar fo far every way from yeilding, that thai glorie in thair punifementis, calling tham persectiounis, and boasting of thair redines to fuffler deathe in that querrel. If thofe thingis, quiche wilbe at griter lenth declarit vnto your Maieftie, deferve any relenting of prefent rigoure, and how longe thai ftand in thir termis, taking no courfe for fatiffactioun of the Kirk, if it falbe expedient to releafe tham of thair wardis, or grant any fort of enlargement, quiche is the onlie thing thing thai craif, we leave it to your Maiefties wyfe and princlie confideration; and qhat heartning this might bring to the enemy, qhat danger to the quyetnes of your Maiefties Kirk and Countrey, how grit a forow and greif to al your Hienes gud fubicētis, and qhat difcredit to ws, qhom your Maieftie hes honoured with funn employment in your fervice. Thefe thingis we befeiche your Maieftie to weighe, and in this mater of fo grit importance, we humble vpon our kneis do craif this favor, that al requestis and privat fūtis, maid in the behalf of thofe men, altho with informatioun of thair redynes to conform them felfis to the religioun profellit, may with your Maieftie find no other regard than thai merit. And gif it fuld pleife your Hienes to anfwer thir fo importun fūtis, that your Maieftie wold fehew no favour to ony of tham, vntil fuche tym as fatiffactioun wer maid to the Churche, we ar affurit thair pryde fuld be haftelic abatit, and this fuld prouif a powerful reafon to worke thair conuiffion. Your Maieftie knowis that it is thair maner to infult vpon the leaft fehew of favour; and for ws, it had ben a thousand tymis better never to haif challengit thair apoftafie, than that thai fuld find any mitigation before thair profellit repentance.

In thir efferis that we prefum to importune your Maieftie with fo tedious a letter, we craif your Hienes favorable pardon (for the zeal of your Maiefties honour tranfporte ws funn qhat in this buiffines), and for other thingis that concerne the effer of our Churche, as we haif put tham down in feveral Articles, qlairin we befeiche your Maieftie to gif credit to the berar heirof, fo we intreat your Hienes favorable anfwer; and qhat in your Maiefties grit iudgment falbe thoct fit we defyr may be commendit to our Lord the Erle of Dumbare his care and diligence, qhose fidelitie and ernestnes makis casie execution of al your Maiefties commandementis: And now, killing your Maiefties

hands in al humilitie, we tak our leave, praying God Almychtie for your Hienes longe and prosperoufe regne.¹

Your Maiefties humble and obedient fervitoris,

ROSS.	SANCTANDROIS.
AN. ISLES.	GLASGOW.
M. P. GALLOWAY.	CATHNES.
JO. HALL.	J.A. B. OF ORCADS.

Edr. the 10 Febr. 1609.

To his most Excellent Maieftie.

CXI.—MEMORIALLS TO BE PROPONED TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT
MAJESTY.

[These Memorials, inserted in Calderwood's History, Scott's Apol. Narration, and the Booke of the Universall Kirk, contain the Articles mentioned in the previous letter (No. CX.) to the King. Calderwood says, "The Bishop of Galloway, Mr Gawin Hammiltoun, was sent up to Court, to informe his Majestie of all things needfull for the furtherance of their course and advancement. The Memorials penned by Mr Spotswod, than Bishop of Glasgow, now Bishop of St Andrewes, but by warrant and with the advice of the rest of the Bishops, sent at that tyme, I have heere set down, just conforme to the principall, writtin with Mr Spotswood's owne hand, and found among Mr Gawin Hammiltoun's writts immediatlie after his death, which we have in our hands, to verifie the truthe of this copie." History, vol. vii. p. 5.]

1. You fall relate the proceedings of the late Convention, and what affectionum some that were present kythled therein, that his Majestie may be forseene with men's dispositiouns, for the better choice of these to whom the affaires fall be concredited.

2. You fall remember the care we have had of reclaiming the Mar-

¹ The original letter, in Spottiswood's hand, is indorsed,—“B. B. Gladst. of St And. Spotsw. of Glasgow, and Law of Orcades, intreates that the Erles of Huntly and Errol suld not be enlarged quhill they gewe satisfacione to the Kirk for the apostasie to Poperie. 10 Feb. 1609.”

quife of Huntlie, and the Earle of Erroll, from their errours, and the finall profite we have feene thereof; and infitt for his Majefties favour to the petition of our Letter.

3. Augent the Minifters that are confined, your Lordfhip fall excufe the request made be us in fome of their favours, fhewing how it proceeded; and farther declare, that of late they have taken courfe to give in fupplicationns to the Countel for their enlargeing to a certain time, for doeing their particular bufineffes at Sefsioun, and otherwife in the countrie, and that fome of them have purchafed licence be the votes of the Countell, albeit we opponed: Therefor befeek his Majeftie to remember the Countell that the confining of thefe Minifters was for faults done be them to his Hienes felf, and that they fhould be acknowledged and confefled to his Majeftie, and his Hienes pleasure understood therein, before the grant of any favour; otherwife they fall undoe all that has been hitherto followed for the peace of the Kirk.

4. Touching the Ereccionns, it is our humble defire to his Majeftie, that the Noblemen, in whofe favours the fame hath been paff, may take order for the provision of their Kirks, according to the conditions made in Parliament, or then difcharge their Ereccionns, which feems beft to be done be an Act in this infewing Parliament, for which his Majefties warrant would be had: And ficklike, fome courfe would be taken for the Prelacies crected, which have paff alfo the conftant Platt; that the prefentatioun of Minifters to the modified ftipends, at the vacancie of the Church, fhould be in his Majefties hand, whereunto, although his Majefties exprefs commandment was given of before, no head was taken be fuch as had the charge of affairs.

5. Since this matter of the Commiffariats importeth fo much to the reformation of our Church government, as this being reftored, in a little time the reft may be fupplied that will be wanting, it fhall be good to remember it be a ferious letter to my Lord Dunbar, that we may know in due time what is to be expected. And fince our greateft hindrance is found to be in the Sefsioun, of whom the moft part are ever in heart oppofite unto us, and forbear not to kyth it when they have occaſion, yow fhall humbly intreat his Majefty to remember our fuit for the Kirkmens place according to the firft inftitution, and that it may take at

this time some beginning, since the place vacant was even from the beginning in the hands of the Spirituall side, with some one Kirkman or other till now; which might it be obtained, as wer most easie be his Majesties direction and commandment, there should be seen a sudden change of many humours, in that State, and the Commonweill would find the profite thereof.

6. Anent our Conference with the Ministrie,¹ your Lordship will declare the time that is appointed, and the reasons of the continuation of the same.

7. Because in the time of Parliament chiefly it should be expedient to have the Bishops teach in the pulpits of Edinburgh, his Majestie would be pleased to commend this to my Lord Dunbar be a particular letter; and to require also the Ministers of Edinburgh to desire their help at that time, if it were for no other end, but to testify their unity and consent of mind to the Estates.

8. Because the Kirk of Leith lyeth destitute in a fort, through the Bishop of Ross his age, and the imprisonment of Mr John Murray; and that the said Mr John is no way minded, as appeareth,² to give his Majestie satisfaction; neither were it meet, in respect of his carriage, that he should return to that Ministrie; and to insist in his deprivation with the Commissioners, might perhaps breed unto us a new difficulty: If his Majestie shall be pleased, we do hold it most convenient for this errand, that the said Mr John be convened before the Counsell be his Majesties command, and be them be charged to ward in the Town of Newabbey and some miles about, having libertie to teach that people, amongst whom he shall find some other subject to work upon than the State of Bishops.

And for the provision of Leith, that his Majestie will be pleased to

¹ At the General Assembly in November 1608, in the view of conciliating the two parties in the Church, a Conference was proposed, and Commissioners appointed to meet in February following; but the meeting was adjourned to the 4th May 1609. A report of the proceedings at this Conference is contained in the Booke of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii. p. 1069: See also Calderwood, vol. vii. p. 27, and Scott's Apol. Narration, p. 211.

² This assertion seems very much opposed to the terms of the Supplication in behalf of Murray in the month of November preceding: See No. CH.

command the Presbyterie of Edinburgh, in regarde of the Bithop of Ross his age, and the said Mr John's transportation be his Hienes appointment, to have care that the said Kirk of Leith be planted with all convenient diligence be Mr David Lindsay, sometimes Minister of Sanct Andrews, for whom both the people is earnest, and we may have sufficient assurance to his Majesties service. And in case the said Presbyterie prove wilfull, that another letter to the same effect may be sent to the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, who may take order to see that matter ended, if such shall be his Majesties pleasure; and this would be done with all diligence convenient.

We cannot but remember also the misorder creeping in the countrie, that once was happily repressed, the wearing of gunnes and pistolls; and humbly beseeke his Majesty, that some new course may be established be searchers of such persons, and delating of them to the Counsell, that they may be punished; and that the Treasurer may have commandment to make choice, in everie country, of certain that shall be thought fittest to searche, which shall be known only to his Lordship self, and satisfie them for their pains, to the end this insolence may be restrained. Particularly it would be forbidden in the granting of Commissions, that this liberty be not permitted: for this is one of the causes of their so open bearing, as said is.

These particulars, your Lordship will have care to propone to his Majestie at some fit time, and see the answers thereof dispatched accordingly.

Your Lordship shall remember my Lord
of Caithnes and his pension.

GLASGOW,

*Be warrant, and at the desire of the
rest of my Lords the Bishops.*

[TO THE BISHOP OF GALLOWAY.]

MY LORD,

When your Lordship shall speak for the help of our Kirks, be the fall of these men that possess our livings, and do justly incurre his Majesties indignation be ther hainous offences, be pleased to remember the case of Lanerk: the possessors of the tithes be now excommunicated.

and at the horn. Desire his Majesties favour for the grant of them to Mr William Birnie, Minister there, whose disposition your Lordship knows to his Majesties service; and his Hienes letter for that effect to my Lord Treasurer, that he may be possessed in the same with all convenient diligence. Likewise remember the provision of Cramond,¹ and the Bishop of Dunkeldens interest to these tithes.

GLASGOW.

CXII.—THE ARCHBISHOPS OF ST ANDREWS AND GLASGOW AND THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.²

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

We trust your Maiestie wil not offend that we remember of new the matter of our Commiffariatis,³ considering first the importance of it to the effecting of your Maiesties most royall designis in the reformation of our Church: Nexte the opportunitie of tym, whiche wald not be neglected, in whiche we haif for sum one respect or other the countenancis of most men with us, that sumtym haif stand very opposit: And thirdlie, the commoditie of the Erle of Dumbar, your Maiesties trustie servant and Counfallour, his repair hither, whose care and fidelitie, nexte vnto your Maiesties favour, we onlie rest vpon. And because in this busines we ar not lyk to haif any contradictent, saif the Lordis of Seffion for thair privat intresse, we humble intreat your Maiestie that sum gud course may be takin for thair satisfaccioun; and the trust thairof and al our affairis laid vpon his Lordship, who wil, we hope in God, gif ane gud accompte of his service in that behalf, not be pretending difficulties and differring the matter to sum more commodiouse tym, as hes ben the custum, but be a faythful performance and effectuating of that whiche your Maiestie salbe plesit to inioyne vnto him. For al the whiche qhat sal we offer? or qhat can we quhairvnto we ar not already bound? Sir, it is litle we can do. Our vttermost indevoris in every thing that

¹ See No. CXVIII.

² The original is in Spottiswood's hand.

³ See No. CXV.

your Maiesties pleasure false to command us, we promise, and say, God willing, not be found servantis altogether unprofitable. And now with our most humble and heartie prayeris to God Almighty for your Maiesties longe and prosperouse regne, we rest,

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient servantis,

SANCTANDROIS.

GLASGOW.

JA. B. OF ORCADS.

To his most Excellent Maiestie.

CXIII.—MR PATRICK SYMSONE, MINISTER OF STIRLING, TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

RYCHT REVEREND BRETHRING IN CHRIST JESUS,

I doubt nocht but ye will haive my absence from this present meeting excusit in regard of my infirmite. Yit I thocht meitt in thir few lynis by wrett to acquaint your W.¹ with the behaivour of my Lord Marques of Huntlie sence the Counsaile day haldin at Sterling the xxij of Marche last bypast: viz. My Lord Marques fend for me, and confarrit in modest and quyt maner with me anent the heidis of religioun contravertit betuix us and the Romane Kirk. Quhat I haive obtenit be conference it is to schort a tyme to mak ane perfyte reckening to your W. Always the first fruttis ye fall pleis to ressaive subferyvit be his Lordschips hand wrett anent the heid of Justificatioun.² And tak suitehe wyle consideratioun thairanent as your W. fall think expedient, and instruct me by your returnit answer, with your best advyse. Forder, his Lordschip hes beine content to heare the word preatchit be me in the Castell of Sterling, his Lady, childring, and serwandis also being present, except one lady, quhome infirmite, with wery neir approaching hir birth, did excuse. Also his Lordschip is content (always licience being

¹ "W." a contraction for Wisdome.

² See page 195.

purchaseit from his Maiesteis honorable Counsaile by your intercessioun) to cum downe to the Towne of Sterling, and to heare the word preatchit thair. Quhilk appeirandlie falbe greater proffieit to his Lordschip, les painis till ws, and greitter contentment to the pepill. His Lordschip, also is in guid esperance and hoip to haiwe the greittar mitigationoun of all feveretie and rigour to be usit aganis his Lordschip the neirar that he approtechis to inbraice that weretie of Chrifit quhilk is professit in this land and preatchit, and allowit be the lawis of oure cuntry. And in this poynt I will intreate your W. that thair may be sum lytill prorogatioun of tyme, wntill your W. sie quhat farder fruttis may be reapit of this begun conference and heiring of the word foirsaid.

Nocht willing to truble your W. with forder, committis yow and youre trawellis to the blissing of the Almightie. From Sterling, the thrid day Aprile 1609.

Your brother to command in Chrifit,

P. SYMSONE.

The Articles subscribed be my Lord Marques war penned be me, and subscribed be his L., efter deliberatiounne.

To the rycht reverend in Chrifit Jesus, the
Commiffionaris of the Generall Aſſem-
blie convenit at Edinburghe, &c. &c.

CXIV.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUSE SOVERAIGNE,

In our meting that kepte at Edinburghe the 4 of this Apryl,¹ we refavit four severall Letteris from your Maieſtie: In the first quherof your Hienes hes ben plesit to recēſſe ws twiching the excommunicat Noble-

¹ At the meeting of the Commissioners of the Kirk, on the 4th of April 1609. This letter has no date, but it distinctly refers to letters from his Majesty, in reply to the Memorials, No. CXI., transmitted in the name of the Bishops in February that year. The original of this letter is also in Spottiswood's handwriting.

men, that none of thaim fuld relaisf any enlargment of thair wardis, or mitigatioun of the rigour of law, til first thaim haif givin hopis of thair ful reclaning, be conference, hearing of fermonis, and conforming thaim felfis in fimm fpecial pointis qhairof formerly thaim haif ftand in doubte. The lyk affurance we had from our Brother the Bifhop of Galloway, who luttie had the happines to fe your Maieftie. The advertifmentis reioyfit ws exceedinglie, and wil no queftioun gif a merveloufe contentment to al trew harted profefforis, qhen thaim fal vnderftand the fam, as we haif willit every one of our meting, at his return, to mak fignificatioun of alle muche to the Prefbiteries and countreyis qhair thaim refide.

In another letter we relaisf your Majeties commandement for flaying al proceding in Excommunicatioun againft perfonis fugitive for capital crymis, who dar not gif apperance for hazard of thair lyf, and a charge to intimat the fam to the reft of the Prefbiteries of the kingdom; anent qhiche, pleife your Maieftie, becaufe it hes ben relaisf in our Churche, and of longe tym obfervit, that the fentence of Excommunicatioun is pronouncit, not onlie for contumacie, but againft haynoufe offendoris, that fal in enorm crymis, fuintym *in detestationem criminis*; fpeciallie againft fuehe as gif no teftimonie of thair repentance be offeris of fatiffactioun qhen thaim ar cited, we found it very hard for ws to difcharge the formis that haif ben vfit, hafing no fuehe power committit vnto ws be the Affemblye qhom this moft concerns: Yit confidering the weight of the reafonis proponit in your Maiefties letter, and perfaving that thair formis ar difagreable altogether to your Hienes judgment, we haif takin, and fal with Godis helpe tak fuehe order as the lyk fal not be practifit before the General Affemblye, be qhom, the matter being proponed vnto thaim, we doubte not your Maieftie fal relaisf ful fatiffactioun in that particular.

The thrid and fourte letteris, concerning the planting of Leyth and Halyrudhoufe, falbe fatiffait with al diligence convenient; or if any impediment interven, qhiche be our meanis cannot be remuifit, your Maieftie falbe advertifit to provyd reneid.

Farder, your Maieftie wilbe pleifit, thair wes presentit to ws, at the fam meting, a letter from the Marques of Huntley, another from the

Erle of Errol: that of the Marquese with a letter that cam with it from Mr Patrik Simfoun,¹ and sum articles subferyvit be him contening his resoluitioun in the head of Justificatioun, we haif sent to your Maieftie, alswel for that it had ben longfium to wryt, as that your Hienes possiblie might desyr to se qhat wes his petitioun, and how far he hes procedit. The Erle of Arroll desyrit a continewatioun of al procedour for a qhyl, and maid offer of conference, but no more. After we had advyfit bothe the futtis with your Maiefties faythful fervant and Counfellow, the Erle of Dunbar, we fand metest to refer al to your Hienes wyfe consideratioun, for as we find nothing as yit in eyther of tham to muif ws to any intercessioun at your Maiefties handis, for thair farder ease and inlargement, so your Maieftie is most wyse to direct qhat course we sal follow, and qwhether the said Marques sal haif libertie to hear sermon in the town of Stirling, or be stil confyuit within the Castell, as the petitioun maid be Mr Patrik in his behalf propertis.

Thair wes presentit also a Supplicatioun from the young Lard of Edzel, declaring his extrem greif and sorow for the detestable slaughter committit be him² and his partakeris, and desyring humble ane absolutioun of the Church from his excommunicatioun, vpon his repentance, quiche he wes contentit to testifie in any place qhair he mycht haif sure access. It wes also signifeit vnto ws, be sum of the Presbiterie of Brien, that his sorow wes vnfeynedlie grit, and that he wes resolvit to quyt your Maiefties kingdomeis, sen he culd neyther find favour with your Hienes, qhair of he hes maid himself most vnworthie, nor haif the partie muist to resais assytlment and satisfaccioun for that cruel deide: and that he stayit onlie vpon his absolutioun, if so he mycht, before his

¹ See No. CXIII. Another letter from Patrick Symson, directed "to the Brethren of the Conference," held at Falkland on the 4th May 1609, is contained in Calderwood's History (vol. vii. p. 24).

² David eleventh Earl of Crawford having assassinated his kinsman Sir Walter Lindsay of Balgawies, David Lindsay younger of Edzell, nephew of Sir Walter, collected an armed force to revenge the murder. The parties met at night on the High Street of Edinburgh, in July 1607, when their uncle, Alexander Lord Spynie, interposing in the hope of reconciling Crawford and Edzell, was inadvertently slain by the latter. (Douglas's Peerage, by Wood, vol. ii. p. 518. Lord Lindsay's Lives of the Lindsays, or Memoir of the Houses of Crawford and Balearres, vol. i. p. 173. Wigan, 1840, 4 vol. roy. 8vo.)

parting, obtain it at the handis of the Church. We, in the reuerence whiche becom vs towardis your Maiestie and your Hienes lawis, haif refusit any dealing with him, excepte your Maiestie shuld be pleasit to gif vs sum toleratioun for the effect forsaid; and in that case we wald gif our consent to sum that mycht try his repentance, and finding it vuseyued, might gif him the spritual comforte that he hes desyrit.

The Erle of Wintoun, and Cathnes, hating comperit afore vs, haif bothe of tham gifin the satisfiactioun that wes cravit, speeciallie the Erle of Cathnes, of whom we haif had very gud contentment, and ar in grit hope that he sal do acceptable service to your Maiestie in those boundis of his remayning. May it please your Maiestie therefore to tak sum notice of this his satisfiactioun and our recommendatioun of him maid to your Hienes, and wil him for approbatioun of his faythfulnes to your Maiestie to do his diligence in the apprehending of Jesuitis and Seminaries that ar thocht to resort in the North partis: we trust assuritlie that to his vttermost he wil indeuore him self for your Maiesties service, and do in schort tym that whiche sal gif to your Hienes a speical contentment. Thus farr haif we presumit to importun your Maiestie, and now with our prayeris to Almyghtie God for your Hienes longe and happie regne, we rest,

Your Maiesties most obedient subiectis and seruantis,

	SANCTANDROIS.
DUNKELD.	GLASGOW.
M. A. BRECHIN.	ROSS.
AN. ISLES.	B. GALLOWAY.
DUMBLANEN.	JA. B. OF ORCADS.
M. P. GALLOUAY.	JO. HALL.

To his most Sacred and Excellent Maiestie.

CXV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS AND THE BISHOPS TO
KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIUS SOUERAN,

May it pleis your Sacrat Maieftie : Qulairas your Maiefteis moft painfull and loyall feruand the Erle of Dumbar heth bufliid him felf, according to his accuftomid vachfulness, in bringing about the accomplifement of your Hienes princely defingment anent our Commiffariatis : and to that effect heth affemblid fun of our number, with fun fpeciall Lords of the Sefiione, quho had commiffion from the remanent : Albeit my Lord of Dumbar and we vrgid infantlic the perfectione of your Maiefties purposis in this effair, yit the Lordis proponit fo mony objections and difficultis to infew heirby, as be liklihead the Steatis in Parliment¹ fould be hardly inducit to accord thairto vules the famine ver remouit. Vpon the quhilk, thair hes beine mony dayis conferenee and difput anent thois difficultis, quhill in ende, as Steatifmen and Counfelleris, thay proponit certen advyfeis, quhilk be motiuis to facilitat the errand. Now, Sir, as we haue mater to blis God, quha hes geuin ws gráce to leive vnder sik a Prince, quho, with the profefiion and mentinance of God's trew vorfchip, heth alfo conioynit in your Royell hait fuch ane cair and zeall for the eftablifching of the beantie, policie, and flurifching feat of the Church, fo heue we, on the knieis of our hait, moft humblie to thank your Maieftie for your Maiefteis infatigabill painis and moft fingular magnificence inployit for reeftablifching the dekeyit feat of our Church in the perfone of ws the Prelatis and infpectoris thairof, vnder your Hienes, our great Constantin ; and thairfoir ve heue prefumit to draw vp ane fhort collecion of the purposis and argumentis quhilk paffit betuix the faid Lordis and ws, that your Hienes, out of the incomparabill vifdome quhilk your God heth grantit and fanctifieit vnto yow, may mak chois of that cours and vay for your Maiefteis auine feruice quhilk fall feim fiteft to your Hienes in this

¹ In the Parliament which was held at Edinburgh in June, when the "Act of the Commissariatis and Jurisdiction geuin to Archbifhoppis and Bifhoppis" was passed, 24th June 1609.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv. p. 430.)

progreſs of your Maieſties reparatione of our ruinis. For althoight we could heve contentit, in regard of the difficultis proponit, with ſum middis quihilk vor motionid, and relentit ſunqulat from the deſyred perfeccion: yit could we not preſum to accept of ony diminution or change of your Hienes conclufionis and antient Policie of the Church, without your Maieſties ſpeciall direction and commande. And thairfoir, we heue referrit all thois queſtionis and doubtis to your Maieſties vyfe deſſionne and guid pleſour, to be impertit to ws be your Maieſteis moſt truſti Counſeller and painefull ſeruand forſaid. It will pleis your Maieſtie, quhen your Maieſtie ſhall think comuenient to peruſe thois notis quihilk we heue mead heiranent, and to direct your Maieſteis pleſour and determinatione quhen your Hienes ſhall think meiteſt. Thus, eſter we have humblie kiſſet your Hienes handis, we beſeik God to beſtow and increſs on your Maieſteis royell perſone and eſteatt all fort of bliſſingis for euer, ve ſhall remaine,

Your Maieſteis moſt humbill ſeruands and oratoris,

M. A. BRECHIN.

J. A. B. OF ORCADS.

AN. ISLES.

SANCTANDROIS.

DUNKELD.

DUMBLANEN.

Edinburgh, the 7 of Apryll [1609.]

CXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNBAR, AND THE BISHOPS OF GALLOWAY
AND ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOVERAINE,

May it pleaſe your Hienes: Vpon the ſicht and conſideratione of your Maieſteis letter ſent to me, the Earle of Dunbare, anent the enlarging of the Marqueiſe of Huntlie his warde, we, the Biſhops of Galloway and Orenay, being only at this tyme in Edinburgh, and requyred to giue our advyſe thairanent, we have preſumed to acquaint your Hienes, that the Archbiſchope of Glaſgow and a reaſonable number of

Bifhops being convened heir the weeke befoir, and confulting togidder anent the beft meanes for advancing your Hienes fervice at the enfuing Generall Affembly, thocht it moft expedient that the Marqueife of Huntlie, and the vther two Earles confined, fould vpon no offeris or conditiones be enlarged befoir the faid Affembly. We were bold to take fuchie refolutione, knowing the greate contentment your Maiefties directiones anent their confining hes givin vniuerfallie to all forte of your Hienes beft fubjects, in fo muche that the hartis of all men ar inclined to quyetnes and obedience, and we do affiuredlie expect ane happie fucces of all thingis concerning your Maiefties fervice, moft humble befeeching your Gracious Hienes to alter nothing, anent the confining of the Marqueife and the vther two Earles, to the Affembly. quhair all thingis we hope falbe done to your Maiefties pleafure and contentment, with the applaufe and confent of all. Thus, from our hartis praying to God for a long and a prosperous reigne to your Hienes, we reft,

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient fervitouris.

DOWNBAR.

B. GALLOWAY.

JA. B. OF ORCADS.

[*No address.*]

CXVII.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
JEDBURGH.

REUEREND AND WELLBELOUED BRETHR,

I haue fent to yow the edict to be publifhed in your churches the Sabbothe following, ether be interchang and preaching one in ane others kirk, whiche wer moft formall and aggreabill to the ordinance of the Affembly, or be ony vther way your Wifdomes fall aggre to be more meit and les troublefom to your felfis. I haue aggreit to vifit Melrois vpon the 26 and 27 of this moneth, and Kelfo vpon the 28 and 29. So it falbe very meit for the cours of my purpois and tranell to com to yow vpon the laft of this infant, and begin your tryall the Monoday or

Tuyfday theretir: that is in my reckning the 2 or 3 of May. Ye will deuyd your kirkis among your felues, that some may pas the one, some the vther day.

Brether, I haue giuen to yow sufficient prone how cairfull and willing I am to begine and proceed with quyetnes, and to haue and keip peace with yow, and in the kirk there: and giue ye will expect the event of my proceeding in that Visitation, ye shall see, by Godis grace, that my actionis shall not charg my profession with vntreuth, and that I shall endeavour to do all thingis, with your aduys and help, to the good of the Kirk and your contentment. Bot if ye will repyne and refuse tryall vpon suspicionis, jealousies, or happily vpon pryde, contempt, and conscience of guiltines, then I will attest your own consciences, and God the searcher of hartis, that I shall be innocent of any trubill or danger that shall come vpon yow; assuring yow, that being authorized by the King his command and commission of the Generall Assemblies, I will not stand to proceed *cum jure et potestate vtriusque gladij. Sed Deus meliora*. Trusting that reason, loue of peace priuat and publick, the example of your fellow Presbitries, and all dewtie, shall moue yow; and expecting your answer in writ, I commend yow to the direction of the Holy Ghost, and the blessing of God in all your counsells and calling.

Your louing Brother,

Edinburgh, 9 Apryll [1609.]

JA. B. OF ORCADS.

B. of Orkney to the Presbiterie of Jedburgh, This.

CXVIII.—THE BISHOPS OF ROSS AND ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAINE:

May it please your Majestie, the Kirk of Crawmond, whilk befor was ane proper part of the Bishoprick of Dunkeld, is now by alleged right of patronage, and verie lang tackes, in the possession of James

Lord Balmerinoch. And although the said Kirk be worth more than fourtie chalders victuall, twentie whereof is yerely paid to him, and the rest is to fall in his hand this year by expiring of all the tackes¹ fet be him befor; as also that he hes in pension threttene feoir markes, whilk is the yerelie dutie used to be payed for the said teindes; nevertheles both he, adhering to the right of his pension and tackes, and the Bishop of Dunkeld by reason the said Kirk is now dismembred from his benefice, refusis alluterly to provide the Minister of Cramond² with any competent stipend, whereby he is enforced to forsake his station; and that Kirke so neare Edinburgh, whilk hes ever bene planted since the Reformation, is left desolate, to the great offense of all that hearis the same. Sir, there is no hope nor help for this and many other evils, but from your gracious Majesties greit wisdome, favour, and power, who hes allways bene, and wee trust shall ever be, an nurishing Father to this poore Kirk. Nather ar we able, within the short listes of this letter, to expone to your Majestie the manifold and greit damages whilk do yerelie encroch and firmly infest them selves upon the spoiled patrimony of this Kirk, especially through the erections both of Prelacies and Patronages. The Patrons refusing both presentation and competent provision to the actual Pastors, and so (thought they be tacksmen also) robbis the Kirk both of her right and rent against all law and reason. The Prelats some of them omitting out of their erection many of these kirks, whilk they or their predecessors have sett in lang tackes, only that they may now be that trick escape the charge of the provision. Others having obtained by pluralitie of voices such favour, that

¹ See Wood's Ancient and Present State of the Parish of Cramond, p. 17. Edinb. 1794, 4to.

² This was no new complaint against the Patron or holder of the benefice. In the stated Visitation of the Kirk of Cramond, the Commissioners of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, on the 21st August 1599, reported, "after tryell of Mr Michael Cranstone, Minister,"—"that his people were cedit be his doctrine, honest in lyf, diligent in discipline and visitation, &c.—Then thair fand. be report, *that the Bishop of Dunkell, quha is Persone of the Kirk, nather upholds thair Queir, nor furnischis elementis to the Communion; quhilk thair remittit to the Presbyterie,*" &c. "The report being considerit, it is concludit, that the next Generall Assemblie of the Kirk salbe requestit to annull the Act made in favouris of the Bishop of Dunkell; throw the quhilk Act the said Kirk of Cramond is defraudit of sick dewties as the Persone is bund to do to the Kirk."

there is lettè than the juft Third of their Prelacies modified to their kirks, and to fome of their kirks les than thay had in poffeffion many yeiris befor be ordinary affignation; and whilk is principallie to be regarded, if it fhall be free to thefe Prelats and Patrons to prefer any they like beft to thefe poore ftipends, and gif the ftipend fhall be payed by them and their Chalmerlanes, and no certane place defigned for payment of the famin, in all tyme cumming, then we dout not but your Maieftie, in your great wifdome and providence, will both fee and foirfee what greit evils will come out of that Trojan Hors.

The confcience of our dutie, the common cair of the Kirk lying upon us, the grives and complaints of our diftreffed Brethren, hes moved us to take this boldnes, as to fignifie thefe things to your gracious Majestie, and moft humble to entreat your Hienes to give direction and order to this approaching Parliament,¹ that ather the former Commiffion for Modification may be extended, or new Commiffion given to heare the complaints of all that fobs under their diftreffes, with power to them to relieve the fame, and in fpeciall the Kirk of Crammond, whilk is prefently layd waff and deftitute of a Minifter.² Befeeeking your Majestie, pardon this our boldnes, and in your own greit wifdome to help thefe prefent evils, and to prevent worfe likely otherwife to enfew, we pray God to preferve and to bleffe your Sacred Majestie with all blessings of this prefent and future life.

Your Majesteis moft humble fubjectis and fervitors,

Ross.

J. A. B. OF ORCADS.

To his moft Excellent Majestie.

¹ Held at Edinburgh, 24th June 1609.

Mr Michael Cranstoun succeeded Patrick Symson as Minister of Cramond, about the year 1590. He survived till 1631. For many years he was very zealous for Presbytery; but he was gained over to the moderate party. In allusion to this change in his conduct, Calderwood, under the year 1596, mentions him as "Mr Michaell Cranstoun, then a very forward Minister, *but now key-cold.*" (Hist., vol. v. p. 512); and, at the Assembly at Glasgow in 1610, he says, some of the Ministers "was promised augmentation of their stipends, namelic, to Mr Michaell Cranstoun, Minister at Cramond, *which was also performed.*" (*Ib.*, vol. xii, p. 98.)

CXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERAIGNE,

May it please your most Excellent Majestie : Althocht I will not præsume to give your Majestie ane forder informatiounne or aduysse in that commoune errand of your Hienes seruice belonging to our Estait, than that, quhilk in our last meeting in Edinburgh, and since lastlie in Falkland, we haue be our writ impairted to your Gratiuous Hienes, as I think my Lord of Glasgo bath related to your most Gratiuous Majestie : Yet anent that commoune seruice, I wald maist humblelie besek your Majestie that the perfectiounne thairof shuld be minted to, and ane act thairof drawne up and essayed ; and if that be not lykelye to succede, that the uther interim be presented as your Majestie shall think fittest (for I am in gude hope euen of the best). Bot befyds hauing heir, of your Hienes, charge of the ouerseing this Vniuersitie, the ordering quhairof makis great importance to your Majesties credite in Kirk and Commounweill, quhairin, althocht paines be taken in Visitations for rectifying the abuses thairof, yet becaus that kynd of judgement is not formallie authorifed be law and act of Parliament, final or litle executionne followes thairvpon. Thairfor I haue thoct meit to draw out ane act, to be signed be your Majesties hand, for establisching that Indicatorie, and authorifing your Majesties Visitations bypast, bot for to mak schow, haue made ane gratiuous narrative and ane confirmationne of the Act maid in Parliament for reformatiounne of the said Vniuersitie ; the obseruationne quhairof will so terrifie them, as it will mak them all in your Majesties reuerence ; and, Sire, ther ar findrie points of seruice both injoynd, and uthers necessarrie, quhilks I darre not enterpryse, *quia erubesco sine Lcye loqui*. I will maist humblelie besek your maist Gratiuous Maicstie to tak a vieu of this Act, as I haue formed it, amending or allowing it according to your Majesties incomparable wisdome, and to direct the sament to my Lord Erle of Dumbar with his wthers employments. Thus, attending most humblelie vpon your Majesties royal appoyntment in quhattomeuer seruice I can auaille, and efter

I have most humbly kist your Hienes hands, and begged licence once in this Summer to see your Majesties most gracious face, I earnestly beseeke God to blesse your Majesties royal estate and most noble persone with all spiritual and temporal benediction for ever. I fall remain,

Your Majesties most humble oratour
and faythful servant,

At Sanctandros, this last of May 1609.

SANCTANDROS.

To the Kinge his most Excellent Majestie.

CXX.—SIR PETER YOUNG OF SEATON TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

I delivred this day your Majesties bookes, the one in Latin, and the other in English, with your Majesties armes vpon them, to my Lord of Yorke, as your Majestie commanded me, who receaved the same with all humilitie, *flexis genibus deosculando*, accounting this not the smallest benefite of so great and many he hath receaved from your Majestie before: That your Majesties open bookes, dedicated by the Author to most mighty monarches, kings, and free princes¹ only, and sent to them by severall messengers from your Majestie, should also be expressly sent to him, your Majesties mein subiect and orator (and so *Βασιλικὸν δωρον* in deid), by one whose service your Majestie had used long agoe to sundry kings and princes over seas. He promiseth he shall religiously keepe them as the apple of his eye, so long as he liveth, and read them over and over agane, as diligently, as they deserue worthely, as well for the Authors sake as for the mater, *et tractandi modum inimitabilem*: And that he hath no thing to render to your Majestie but most

¹ "The Apologie for the Oath of Allegiance," by King James, "now acknowledged by the Author," which was printed at London, April 8, 1609, in 4to, contains a "Promission of his Majestie, to all most Mightie Monarchs, Kings, free Princes and States of Christendom."

humble thankis, and fuche feruice as he is able to doe, fo long as he liueth, with his hearty prayers to God Almighty for your Majesties long and prosperous regne, wherunto I ioyne myne from the bottome of my hart. And fo, in my Lord of Yorke's name, and in my owen, most humbly kissing your Majesties royall handis, I take my leaue.

From Yorke, this 19 of June 1609, which was your Majesties most blessed birth day 43 [years] agoe: *Quem diem nos hic celebravimus alacres, non sine Regio poculo in orbem, et moris est, impigre propinato atque exhausto.*

Your Maiefties most humble, faithfull, and obedient oldest fervant,¹

SIR,

I have begged this enclosed from my Lord of Yorke, which, albeit *in re tenui*, I thought not unworthy of your Majesties reading. *Quod ad me attinet, in reditu (si modo Deus mihi redire concesserit) senectuti mee ingruenti tranquillum portum expecto, tum conjugi, liberis et familie; ne perpetuo peregrinari, et incertis seclibus vagari cogar.*

To the Kingis Maieftie.

CXXI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERAIGNE,

May it please your most Excellent Majestie: As of all vyces ingratitude is most detestable, I findand my self not only as first of that

¹ Young's signature to this letter was probably familiar to the King. It seems merely to be his name written in Greek, "ὁ ἰοῦνιος." Another letter, with a similar signature, occurs in the volume of Balfour's MSS., containing "Letters to King James from Learned Men, &c."—Mr Peter Young, who became King's Almoner, and was employed in various embassies abroad, had been appointed one of his preceptors, in 1570, along with George Buchanan. At a later period, he received the honour of knighthood. Sir James Melville, in contrasting him with his colleague, says, "Mr Peter Young was more gentle,

dead Effait quhilk your Majestie hath re-create, bot also in my priuate conditione so overquhelmed with your Majesties princely and magnifick benignitie, could not bot repaire to your Majesties most grations face, that fo vnworthie ane creature micht both see, blisse, and thanke my Earthly Creator, lyk as I in my mislive, quhilk I wes bold to direct to your Hienes be my brother-in-law, I protested the same micht be with your Majesties most grations lieence. Thair is also some occasione to offer to your Majestie some Ouertures anent your Hienes service, quich yet hath gottin litle promotione, albeit our wages be weill payed befor the hand. These things I could not committe to onie. Thus, I hope your Majestie will accept in gude part this my journey, quich the wings of loue and affectione hath facilitate aboue my awne hope and the willes of my disapoynted enillwillers. Sua I committe your Majestie to God his blessed protectione.

Your Majesties humble fervitour,

At Standford, 11 of Sept. 1609.

SANCTANDROIS.

To the King his most excellent Majestie.

CXXII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOVERANE,

This beirar the Bishop of the Yllis, returning laithie frome the Yllis, whair he careyed him selff with goode credite and reputatioun, he and was loath to offend the King at any time, carrying himself warily, as a man who had a mind to his own weal, by keeping of his Majesties favour." He died 7th January 1628, aged 81, leaving very considerable property, while Buchanan, at the time of his death, in 1582, had "na uther goods nor geir," than the sum of £100 (Scottish money) due of his pension from the fruits of Crossraguel Abbey. (Irving's *Life of Buchanan*, pp. 123, 385, 395.)

¹ Among Calderwood's papers (Wodr. MS., Folio Vol. XLII., No. 61.), is an old transcript of this letter, indorsed by the same hand as marked the originals.

maid his appeirance this day befor your Maiefties Counfall, and pre-
fentit vnto thame a Reporte of his diligence and proceedingis thair in
your Maiefties feruice, the particularis whair of in euery circumf-
tance he will amplie relait vnto your Sacred Maieftie. And fwa recommend-
ing him vnto your Maiefties gracious and fauourable acceptance, we
pray God to bliffe your Maieftie with a long, happy, and prosperous
reign. From your Maiefties burgh of Edinburgh, the 28 of September
1609.

Your Sacred Maiefties moft humble
and obedyent fubicētis and feruitouris,

To the King his moft Sacred
and excellent Majefte.

AL. CANCELL.
ROSS.
R. CORBURNE.¹

CXXIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOWSE SOVERAIGNE,

The Letter quiche plefit your Maieftie to fend to the Citie of
Glaſgo for electing thair Bailzeis this yeir infewing, wes be funn of thair
number fo misconfrued, as it bred no litle bufines, yit at laſt thair ar
wonne to obedience, and haif advyfit to paffe from thair new liberties,
and betake thaim felſis to the cuſtom of former tymis, quiche as it is
more auncient, fo wil it prouif better muche to thair eſtair than the new
formis thair defyrit. And if it may be your Maiefties gud pleſure to
hear a litle of the courſe that hes ben kepte in thir materis: qhairas
at the reſſait of your Hienes letter, quiche wes vpon the 3 of Novem-
ber, the anſwer wes delayit to the elleuint of the ſam; al the mid tym
wes ſpent in animating the Burgeſſis againſt the direſtiounis of it,
qhairin funn of the facioute fo prevailit, that in the morning of that
elleuint day it wes noyfed that al the people of the Citie wald meit at the

¹ These three names are written at the left hand side, in the view, no doubt, of the letter receiving some additional signatures.

Tolbuith and oppofe tham fellis, be taking proteftatiounis in contrair of the letter: Certain alfo wer put out to warne me that it wer not expedient I cum to the Connecll, becaufe in oppofitioun thair might fal out fun thingis that wald not easilie be redreffit. Suspecting the counfall that wes gifin me, I anfwerit, that as I had delyverit your Maiefties letter, fo I wald not ceafe to vrge the obedience thairof, and if any man wald be vnruly, I fuld be patient, thairfore I wald keip the place to bear witnes to every man's doinge. This hard, thai refolve not to meit at al; and when I wes cum to the Tolbuith, abyding thairin from ten to twelf, none apperit. Certain of the Minifters of the town, the Principle of the Colledge, and fun other gentilmen, were withine, in whose prefence I tuk documentis in the handis of thre noteris of this thair refufe, witneffit be thair wilful abfence, and certefeit tham I wald advertife your Hienes. The confcience of thair mifbehaviour, and fear of complayning, drew tham to interceid in the evening with me, be thair Pafforis, that I wald not be hafie to advertife, promifing at my defyr to conven the nexte day and gif a reverent answer: quiche thay did, taking the courfe that your Maieftie wil perfais in thair Aete of Counfal, fubferyvit be the Clerk of the town and thre Minifters as witneffis. The Craftis that had not place to meit with tham in counfal convenit aparte, and delyverit thair mynd alfo, profefing thair obedience, with ane humble acknowledging of your Maiefties favoris done to thofe of thair number that wer detenit in warde, and defyring the electionn of thair magistratis might be after the auncient form fimplie, thairin thai wer fun what different from the counfall, as your Maieftie wil perfais be the reading of bothe thair writtis. After this, apperit ane wonderful change in the peple, al of tham firyving who fuld be firft in obedience and beft reportit of: fo as now we onlie attend your Maiefties gud plefure, to follow it without ony furder reafoning; and if I may be fo bold, vpon the knowledge of thair prefent effaitt, in al humblenes I prefent my opinioun to your moft Sacred Maieftie, that it may be your Hienes gratioufe plefure to command tham of new to electe the Balzeis that wer nominat be your Maieftie in the firft Letter, and to fignifie that it is your Hienes mynd thai haif no Provelt at this tym; but in the mean quyl to chufe a difcret Counfal of the Town, halfe of the merchantis, the other of the

craftis, according to the roll I haif sent, qhairunto of both parties I haif warrant, and yit can not be weil refavit of that multitude without your Maiefties fpecial direccioun. And as to the defyr of the Counfal of the Town, anent the electioun of the Proveft, pleife your Maieftie to referve it to your Hienes gud advyfe for a certan tym.¹ This, Sir, if it may pleis your Maieftie to command, wilbe readylie effectu, and fal bring thingis to fuche quyetnes heir as it fal not be remembrit thair wes amongest tham formerlie any differece.

Pardon me, Sir, that I am fo longe in this matter, for I defyr the difpofitioun of the peple fuld be knawin to your Maieftie, and my panis takin with tham, fum tymis threathning, fum tymis perfwading and warning tham out of pulpit to bewar of fuche courlis as had the Minifters taken in thair rebelloun, qho thocht the libertie of the Kirk was hafarted in the obedience of your Hienes commandementis. But for thofe maters of the Minifters, pleis your Maieftie, we ar heir quyet, and thair abfence wil even bred a forgetfulnes. The Bifhop of Sanct Andrewis hes peace at wil, qhairby your Maieftie can tak vp the inftrumentis of his truble. Sir, I haif oft faid, and I repet it, be your Maiefties leave, faythful and fracke fervants in the Estait, that wil feik your Maiefties honour, and vrge obedience not for the maneris fake, but in effeete to fe your Hienes wil performit, fal easilie keip thingis in rule heir, bothe in Kirk and Policie.

Now, Sir, that matteris ar brocht to anc reasonable point in this place qhair your Maieftie wes plefit to fet me, and generallie in the Kirk, as wil appeir I trust in the approching Affembly, if I may, without your Maiefties offence, I wald humblie begge leave of retyring, and yeild my Bifhoprick to one that can ferve, now qhen thingis ar fetlit, better nor my felf. Sir, I defyr the world fuld fe that ambitioum did not fet me on worke, but a defyr to ferve your Maieftie in a gud worke that had many enemyis; and inded, Sir, I find my burdens infupportable: qhiche, if I may obten at your Maiefties handis, I fal count my felf happie; if other-

¹ On the 3d October 1609, James Inglis was elected Provost of Glasgow, and Matthew Turnbull, George Muir, and James Braidwood, Bailies. Cleland however makes no mention of any new election having taken place; and says, that Inglis was the first resident citizen of Glasgow who became Provost.—(Annals of Glasgow, vol. i. p. 159.)

wylfe, I fal below that quilk reftis of my lyf to your gracioufe pleafure, quhairvnto I haif onlic consecratit my felf, with a neglect of al outward thingis quatfumevir.¹ Craving maift humblie your Maiefties favor in this, and pardon for my langfum wryting, I pray Ahnyghtie God to git your Maieftie many gud dayis for the weil of his Kirk.

Your Maiefties humble fervant,

GLASGOW.

To his moft Sacred Maieftie,

CXXV.—THE PROVOST, BAILLIES, AND COUNCEL OF GLASGOW TO
KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAN,

It may pleis your moft Sacred Majestie : Wee, your Hienes fubjectis, vpon regard we haif nocht onlie to our felfis, bot cheiffie to your Maiefties honour and renown, quhilk nocht onlie is famous by your Hienes fingular virtewis in mynde and aëtioun, bot lykewylfe by the monumentis of your Hienes realme within Burrowis ; amangis quhilkis our Metropolitan Kirk, Brig, and River is nocht estemit the smallest, fa manifest and knawin to ffrangearis and forein nationis, quaha heirtofoir hes vewit and fein the fame ; Ar compellit to direct this berar, our ordinar Patour, our Commiffioner, to deploir and lament the apperand decay and rueyn thairof, with maift fubmiis hwmill hartis and myndis, to craif your Maiefties help and fupplie thairto, without the quhilk (to our grit greif) thais honorabill monumentis and werkis of this your Hienes anuient Kingdome will decay, as this our Commiffioner will mak mair manifest and knawin to your Maieftie : Maift hwmelie will then intreit

¹ This letter was probably written about the beginning of November 1609. Notwithstanding the wish which Spottiswood here expresses to be relieved of his "insupportable burdens," it may be observed, that within two months he accepted a seat on the Bench as an Extraordinary Lord of Session. See notes to Nos. CXXXIII. and CXXXIV. The above letter is indorsed,—“Spots. B. of Glasc. anent the Electioun of the Magistrates of Glasgou, by the P. and B. ; and of the Easteat of the Kirk, quhair he offeres to dimitt his Bischoprik.”

your Hienes to pietie the decay of sik magnifique ornamentis, and for help thairof to grant ws your Hienes supplie, be sik meanis as your Maieftie fall think maift readie and convenient, by doing quhairof wee ar affurrit your Hienes fall first honour God, quhairupone will follow your Maieftis honour and praife, and we enforeit to incres our daylie prayer for your Hienes bliflit eftait heir and eternallie. Leifing farder to our Commiffioner, with hwmill hartis kissing your Maieftis handis, and praying God for your Hienes lang and prosperons regnne, with incres of mony kingdomes, wee commit your Maieftie to his bliflit protectioun.

Your Maieftis maift hwmill fubiectis,
 THE PROVEST AND BAILLEIS AND COUNSELL OF GLASGU.
 be thair commoun Clerk,

A. HEYGATT.

Glasgu, the xj of Nonember 1609.

To his most Excellent Maieftie.

CXXVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

After oure verie hairtlie commendationes to your goode Lordship, according to ane direçtioun fend doune frome his Maieftie to the Archebifchop of St Androis and Lord of Seone, ament the examinatioun of Maifter Johnne Fairfoull,¹ for praying for the banifheit Brethrene, thay had the said Mr Johnne befor thame the sextene of this infant, and at grite lenthe hard him vpoun that mater, and exhibite his depofitions to the Counsell in the afternoone: Maifter Johnne is ordanit to be fummond to compeir befor the Counfaill vpoun Thurifday nixt, at

¹ Mr John Fairfoull appears to have been admitted one of the Ministers of Dunfermline, as colleague to David Fergusson, in the year 1590.—(Booke of the Kirk, vol. ii. p. 764.) According to a subsequent letter, No. CXXIX., he was confined to Dundee, and deprived of his charge at this time. Notwithstanding the delay referred to in a letter from the Archbishop of St Andrews, dated 18th April 1610, Fairfoull became Minister of Anstruther Wester in Fife, and died in the year 1625.

whiche tyme fuche ordour falbe tane with him for punisheing of that his error and offence, as shall gif vnto his Maiestie satisfiactioun. Sua recommending your goode Lordship vntill Godis protectioun, we rest,

Your Lordships very assured goode freindis,

Your Lordship shall heirwith ressaue the copy of his depositionis to be showne vnto his Maiestie, at your Lordships best oportunitie, and that your Lordship will returne vnto vs his Maiesties pleasour heirament.

HALYREDDOUS,
R. COKBURNE.

JO. PRESTOUN.
S. T. HAMILTON.
CLS. REGISTR.

17 November 1609.

To the Right noble our very honorable goode Lord, the Erl of Dunbar, Lord Heich Thesaurair of Scotland, and of his Maiesties most honorable Preuey Counsell, etc.

CXXVII.—THE BISHOPS OF BRECHIN AND ORKNEY AND MR PATRICK LINDESAY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it pleas your most Excellent Maiestie: The Archbishops, Bishops, and some few of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, being convened be my letters at Edinburg, the 8 and 9 dayis of Nouember, I did present and reid to them your Maiesties letter, the tuo instructiouns for the Catholique Earls, and the copy of the Oath to be taken of them; by all whiche your Maiesties great wisdom, princely and fatherly cair and godly zeall being clearlie manifested, and your pleasur and directions reuerentlie considered, we all, out of the joy of our harts, did pray and praise God for your Maiestie. And that your Maiesties seruice might the better be effectu-ated, it seemed good to vs, that the Bishop of Brechen and Mr Patrik Lindesay should accompany and assist me in taking of the Oathe, and

discharging my Instructions from your Maiestie to those Nobill men. We cam to Stirling the 13 Nouember, wher efter some conference had withe the Marques, specially about your Maieftis princely and louing cair to regane him, about the lawfulness of the oath (the iust copy wherof I had sent vnder my hand writ, to be aduysed be him four dayes befor our euning), about the Pops vsurped autorite, and the most hellish and pernicious doctrine and practise of æquiuocatioun and dispensation. he did declair him self willing and redy to swear and subferyb the oathe without æquiuocatioun, being ryply aduysed and resolued in conscience vpon euerie poynt and article thair of. Quher vpon, in presene and audienc of the Earll of Murray, the Lairds of Powmeis and Mufehett. Maisters Patrik Simton, Harie Liuiston, Robert Moore, Malcolm Henrifon, Ministers; the Provest, Bailyeis, and Commitfar of Stirling, and diuers others (all of them being requyred be ws to that effect, and most glaidlic consenting), we did, in the most solemne maner we possible could, efter the oppen and distinct reading of the Oathe, tak him suorne deeple thervnto vpon his knees; and presentle thereafter reading agane euerie article therof feuerallie, did pose and adjure him, by the great oath whiche he maid, that he wes resolued in his conscience vpon euerie poynt therof, and did swear it without any æquiuocation or dispensation.

The samin order was obserued by ws in all things withe the Earll of Arroll vpon the 17 of this Nouember, as your Maieftie may see be the double of the oathe subferybed be ther hands, and the witnessis, whiche also, according to your Maieftis instructions, I haue sent with this letter. In all whiche, if ther be any thing ather omitted or vnskilfulle done by ws, we humble craue your Maieftis gracious fauour and pardon.

We did also, at the sam tymes, efter the subfcription of the oath. impart to the Earlls those Instructions whiche your Maieftie sent be me. The Marques is very desyrus to see the articles, concerning which I did declair your Maieftis will and judgment to the Commissioners, and they ar to come to your Maieftie withe my Lord of Glasgou. When we wrged and exhorted the Marques that he wold cause his Lady and Doghter com to preaching, he answered, that his Doghter was of perfect age, and that he would not presse them against ther conscience. Ane of his domestique seruants, Jhone Gordon, being called befor the Presbi-

terie of Stirling, hes professed that he neuer was nor wilbe of our religion, and being requyred be the said Presbiterie, efter thre admonitions, to com to sermon, speciale vpon the fyft of Nouember to giue God thankis as ane good subject and Christian for your Maiesteis bliffed deliueranc, he refused and fled the tonne vpon the Setterday efternone befor the said day; for whiche causes and contempts they excommunicat him.

The Earll of Arroll, efter his oath and subseription, in his priuat conferene withe ws did attest God, that he was so trouglie resolued againt the Pops vsurpation, that when he did read Bellarmine his fyft book *De Summo Pontifice*, for information of his knowledg and conscienc in that mater, he dois think all whiche he hes wretin to be bot ane philosophicall discourse, and not ane theologicall verite; speciale becaufe the Sone of God him self, being Lord of Lords, did not in the dayis of his flesche vsurp nor vse any such power, bot was ane humble and faithfull subiect, and commanded to giue to Cæsar *quæ sunt Cæsaris*. He hes also agreed and promised to com to sermon ordinarle in the Castell, for obedienc and satisfiacion to your Maieste, and information to him self.

How I discharged my self of all other things whiche it pleased your Maiestie to committ and coneredit to me; how we haue resolued, and what is all our humble aduylse and desyr to your Maiestie concerning those tuo Nobill men in speciall, my Lord of Glasgow will declair to your Maiestie, at his comming. For now, becaufe they haue sworne and subseribed the Oathe of fidelite, and abiured the Pops power ouer Princes so solemnly, they did not spair to say opinly befor many, and to ws cheiftly, that ther is no cause or suspicion resting why they should be furder troubled and warded, bot only for ther conscienc and religion. Humble kissing your Maiesteis hand, we pray God to blisse your Highnes with all blifings in this world, and the lyfe to come.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient seruantis.

M. A. BRECHIN.

JA. B. OF ORCADS.

MR PATRIK LINDESAY.

Edinburgh, 18 Nou^r. 1609.

SIR,—I cannot bot testify and commend to your Maiefties gracious fauour and confideration Mr Patrik Lindefay, who withe great wifdom is moft conftant and feruent in your Maiefties feruice by all other Commiffioners, without regard of his tranell and charges.

To the King his moft Excellent Maieftie.

CXXVIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE :

Efter my returning home, immediatlie I haue had occafione of practifing your Majesties Royal defignement anent the richt of prefentatione of the kirks of the erected Prelacies be your Majestie ; qulich is ane matter of fo great importance, that it can not be omitted without vnfpeakable loffe to your Majesties authoritie heir. Ane of the kirks of the Pryorie of Sanetandros, callit the Kirk of the Southferrie,¹ in this Presbitrie, beand proponed to be planted, I vrged your Majesties entres, and protested that nothing fould proceede in that matter quibil your Hienes fould prefente, according to your Majesties royal priuilege authorifed in Parliament, and contened in the feuerall fignatours of the erected Prelacies, (*except your Hienes officiars haue preuaricate.*)² Bot this intimatione hath bene litle regairdit be the feditionis reliques of that auld flampe, qulich your Majestie knowis. And thairfor I wes bold, this fame day being our Presbitrie day, to command them to desifte, as being your Hienes Commiffioner, lyk as of old, in tyme of the Pope his vsurpatione, my Prædeceffours wer *Legati Nati* ; and becaus poffeffione is best heir, I haue prefumed to recommede to your Hienes ane young

¹ Southferry, or Ferry Port-on-Craig, formed part of the parish of Leuchars, from which it was disjoined in 1602 by the Presbytery and Synod ; and in July 1606. an Act of Parliament was passed erecting the kirk of " the Eist ferrie of Portineraig " into a separate parish, (Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv. p. 302.) Mr Symeon Durie was then admitted minister ; but previously to the supposed date of this letter, he had been translated to the adjoining parish of Forgan or St Fillans. Mr James Jarden was admitted his successor at the Southferry, in November 1609. (Ecl. Records, Synod of Fife, p. 205.)

² The words in this letter printed in italic type are underlined in the original.

man for quhome I wilbe anſwerable vpon my perill, that your Majestie. in ſigning this ſignatour, may enter in poſſeſſione of your Hienes awne richt of preſentatione, quhich is the greateſt comfort that we your faithfull ſervantis have in this *navfrage* of the kirk linings. Thus it may pleaſe your Majestie ſigne the ſame, as I haue teſtified my recom- mendatione and ſuretieſhip for the man be my humble ſubſcriptione in the end thairof.

Quhil I am thus doing and continuing in *my wonted ſicht*, I am anocate be ane letter from the Præſident and Clerk of Register, to giue coupt of the vſage of my Benefice, with ſuch imputations as I can hardly digeſt, not in reſpect of my perſone, bot of my place. to the quhich I, the unworthieſt of that nomber, am promotit be your Hienes. Sire, I remember it is recordit, that in the Phariſaick conflict Cæſar obſerved that Pompeye, be his wntymeous reſtraint of his ſouldiers in the clock of the battel, in ſtaying them of thair force and faird, ſo abbaited thair courage, that they wer ane eaſie praye to the Cæſarians. fewar in number, and of leſſe valour; and ſo did Cæſar ſay, that if Pompeyis ſouldiers had bene ſuffered to haue gone fordward with thair firſt impetuofitie, they wer wneſtifiable. Sire, at my home cumming, I was doing nothing bot chearing vp your Maieſteis ſouldiers to *ſicht manfullie both againſt the Papists and Puritains*, and quhil I am this doing, the matter of Rental cummis in. I proteſt befor God, I count more of your Hienes ſervice, and our inveſting in the auncient Apoſtolick Diſcipline, than of all the Biſhopricks in Scotland, remembring that the beſt Biſhops hath bene pure and martyrs, and yet haue mainteened vnder the croſſe both thair religion and authoritie; albeit that befell not to them under Conſtantine, your Majesties paragon. Sire, let your Hienes conſider not only *quid liceat, ſed quid expediat*. I am not to exeeme my ſelf from tryal, cenſure, and animaduerſione, *bot this is not the tyme, and ſuche Judges are not honorifick to cenſure your Majesties firſt Eſtate*; and, Sire, let ather your Hienes in perſone, your Privie Counſel, or Hieh Commiſſione, juge ws in all cauſes; bot thir Commiſſions mak ſuch nupreſſione in the peopleis hartis of our guiltines and viltie in your Majesties eyis, as hes ſtained ws in ſicht of our enemies and all indifferents, and giuen to ws and our freinds ane great daſche, ſpecially at

such ane tyme as your Hienes must giue vs countenance, yea, and doe as ye wer wont *to ouersee the greatest malefactours on the Borders*, quhen your Majestie had seruice. Thus my humble aduys is, that since the tryal of the estait of the Benefices, not only belonging to Bischops hot also to the Dignities and Chaptours, is the subiect of the Prouinciall Counfells of Sanctandros and Glasgo, as your Maiesties awne ouerture bearis, your Hienes command vs quho ar the Archbischops in these our Counfells (quhich your Majestie rememberis wer appointed to be haldin this nixt spring), sould tak præcise tryal, not only of the Bischops, hot also of the hail Chaptours, and send them to your Majestie or delyuer them to the Counfel in ane register, as we wilbe answerable vpon our alliegeance, and with all, that we our selfs fall delyuer the rental and estait of our benefices in semblable manner cleerly, for your Majesties and Counfells informatione: And if your Majestie find that this, quhich is the ordinair and iuste forme of enquiry succede not, your Hienes knawis to quhome to tak your self; and vpon the omissione and corruptione of the Ecclesiasticks, your Majestie may tak ordour be your self, or such honorable deputts as to your Hienes fall seeme most expedient. As for me, Sire, I haue enriched my benefice, *for of lesse than nothing, I haue maid, be my travel and expenses, ane honorable rent*, as fall appeare cleerly to your Majesty. Howsomener, Sire, I must craue prorogatione to the end of this sessiõne of my accompts, since I haue almost the thrid of my tenants and takismen vnder proces of producciõne and reducciõne, quhairby for the present I can giue no perfyte Rental.

I besek your Maiestie send back with diligence your Hienes pleasour anent these matters, till the returne quhairof I think nothing falbe resolvit, and all your purposes will hing louse. So humble submitting all to your Maiesties wyfe and just pleasour, I committ your Majesties sacred persone and estait to God his ætternal blissing, and fall remaine.¹

To the King his most Excellent Maiestie.

¹ This letter is not signed by the Archbishop. It is indorsed,—“Bishop of St Andros to the Kingis Maiestie. Makes request, 1. For ane presentatione to ane young man of the South Ferry; 2. That he suld be exaimed fra giving of ane compt of the vssage of his Benefice: without deat or subscriptione.—Seditious.”

CXXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAINE,

May it pleas your most Excellent Maieftie: Quhairas your Hienes vreit to me laitlie anent the foulifh behaviour of Mr Johne Fairfull¹ in his prayer for thefe juftlie banifhed Minifters; Sir, I proteft befor God I never knen it quhill your Maiefties letter informed me; and if I hade knauin, I fuld haue takin ordour according to my place. Alwayis, efter refett of your Maiefteis directione, I convenit him befor me hier, in my ludging in this toune, being affifit with my Lord of Seoune, and vith all chargit befor me, the Magiftratis, and ane gryt pairt of the Counfall of the toune; bot his awin confeffione fhorted that mater, whiche I gaue in to the Counfall, fubferyvit with his awin hand. Quhairvpon being fifted befor the Counfall this Thurifday, the 23 of this infant, he vas conuict in the vrang vniformlie; bot in the maner of his prefent cenfur ther vas varietie, the one pairt voting to his varding in the Blackueffe (of whitch number I vas firft), the vther, ane grytar pairt, difcerning him to be confined in the Broughe of Dundie. This is the report of my diligence, according to my bound dentie. The man is becume in your Maiefteis will, whiche your Maieftie will pleas declare quhen your Maieftie fall think fitteft.

I vreit to your Maieftie laitlie anent a contraverfie about the placing of ane Minifter in a kirk callit the South Ferrie,² belonging to your Maiefties prefentatioun, whiche the Prefbeterie of Sanctandros wald fill with ane feditions man, and vithout your Maiefties licence or nomination: Althua I vas bold to offer my humble advyfe anent your Hienes Commiffioun for our calumniouffie alledged dilapidationis, bot haue not reflavit your Maiefties pleafour back, whiche to vs all is and falbe ane irrefragable oracle. I am heir verie weill reflavit, and heard in the pulpit of Edinburgh, quhair I teache ordinarlie euerie Sunday, and will fo contenout, God villing, quhill your Maieftie difcharge me. The uther comon materis directed to be advyfed, ve haue paffed through, and haue

¹ See note to page 211.

² See note to page 215.

send our opinionis with the Archbifhope of Glafgow and my Lord of Galloway; to quhais fufficiencie referring, I befeche God to blis your Maieftie with long health and lyff, and all bliffed prosperitie in your Hienes governement. I remaine,

Your Hienes moft humble and devoted
fervand and oratour,

SANCTANDROIS.

Edinburgh, 24 November 1609.

To the Kinge his moft Excellent Maieftie.

CXXX.—THE BISHOP OF ROSS TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MAJESTIE,

Perfaueing your Highnes intencion that Ireland fould be plenifhed with fome Scottifmen, and certaine numbers of acres expreffed to be difponit vnto them, upon the conditionnis conteinit in the Booke,¹ I have travellit with fundrie of my acquaintance to accept the fame; and caufed this gentilman, Johne Dunbar, to pas till Ireland this laft Sommer, quha hes travellit throw the haill countrey, and hes confidered all the pairts of it, and being returnit, hes moued fundrie to be content to go till Ireland; and fpeciallie my fone Mr Jeremie,² Mr Robert Lindfay, Bernardis brother,³ and George Smellome. My Wife alfo is willing to be a partner

¹ This seems to refer to a tract entitled "Orders and Conditions to be observed by the Undertakers upon the Distribution and Plantation of the Escheated Lands in Ulster," printed in 1608. In Capt. N. Pynnar's official Survey of Ulster, in 1619 (published in Harris's *Hibernica*), there is a detailed account of the different allotments of 1000, 1500, or 2000 acres, with the names of the first patentees: it includes the names of Dunbar, the Lindsays, and Smelhome, who are mentioned in this letter.

² Afterwards Sir Jerome Lindsay of Annatland. He was one of the Commissaries of Edinburgh. He also held the office of Lord Lyon, from 1621 to 1630.—(Lord Lindsay's "Lives of the Lindsays," vol. i. p. 467.)

³ Bernard Lindsay of Lochhill, formerly one of the King's pages, or "chalmers-child" to his Majesty. He obtained a grant of some property in Leith, connected with a large edifice known as "the King's Work."

with them, and hir twa Brether. And becaus your Maiefties letter will mak the Deputie and the Commiffioners to pas their fecurities, in all humilitie I wald crave that your Highnes wald grant your favorable letter, that they be not fruifrat of their purpofe. I am the mair carefull of this turne, becaus of my Wifes interefs, quha hes done, and daily does a very honest ductie vnto me, as my Lord Glasgou (quha knawes the fame) can declair vnto your Maieftie. I haue no lands to giue hir, and thairfore I hope your Highnes will fpair this vpon hir, to be a conjunct fee, that ſho may tret me the better in all tymes to come. Johne Dunbar can informe your Maieftie quhat is beſt to be done, and may furdur this turne. Ceaffing to trouble your Maieftie, prayes God to fend your Highnes a prosperous reigne, and mony gude dayes. Leith, the 27 of November 1609.

Your Maiefties maift humble ſubiect,

Ross.

To the King his Sacred Maieftie.

CXXXI.—THE BISHOPS OF ABERDEEN AND MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

PLEAS YOUR SACRET MAIESTIE,

Vpon our humill fute maid to your Hienes befor your Maiefties removing from the Kingdome of Scotland, anent the oppin prophanyng of the Sabothe dayis, be the Salmond fiſhingis of our Dyocceis, withdrawing thairby mony perſonis from the publiet wirſchip of God, it pleſit your Hienes to fett downe ane Act of Secret Comfall, inhibiting all perſonis to prophane the Sabothe dayis, vnder a penaltie; commanding all Shirreffis to exact the penaltie of all contraueneris. Neuirtheles, the Shirreffis hes overfene this cair of prophanatioun of the Sabothe dayis, quhairby mony continewis in thair publiet fin and offence. And albeit diuerſe men of the religioun, ſpeciallie in Abirdene, wald glaidlie deciſi, yit trowthe it is, that ſindrie Papeiſtis hauſſing diſpenſatioun fra the Paip ar ſtill refractarie, reſpecting thair awin gayne rather than

Goddis wirschip, and all becaus thair is na executioun of your Maiesteis lawis. And howbeit we our selfis haif bene wrgit be diuerse well affectit Professouris and Ministeris to haif citit thame befor ws Ecclesiasticallie, to haif censourit thame, yit wald we do no thing thairintill without your Maiesteis knawin will and contentment. Quhairfoir we maist humelic intreit your Hienes to direct your Maiesteis missives to the Schirreffis of Aberdene, Elgin, Forres, and Innernes, commanding thame to put your Hienes Act of Secreit Counsell aganis the prophaneris of the Sabothe dayis to dew executioun, as thai will ansuer to your Hienes. As lyk wayis (incace the Schirreffis be negligent yit as of befor), that we may haif your Hienes missive direct also to ws, willing ws, gif neid beis, to proceed aganis the contraveneris Ecclesiasticallie. And becaus the Erll of Enze, quha suld be Schiref of ane pairt of that boundis presentlie may do gud thairin, it is meit your Maiestie signifie your Hienes mynd to him be your Hienes awin word, willing him to sie that the said Act ressaue the awin executioun; so fall your Hienes greitlie honour God, and gif full contentment to all religious hartis within this [your] Maiesteis kingdome; quhais continewall prayeris and ouris ar and salbe still offerrit vpon for the continewall increfs of all gud blissingis of this lyfe to be moltipit vpon your Maiestie and your Hienes royall posteritie, and for that eternall blefs in the lyf to cum.

Your Maiesteis maist humill and obedient fermitouris and subiectis,

Edinburgh, the xv
day of December 1609.

P. BISCHOP OF ABERDEIN.
AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.

To the Kingis most Saerede Maiestie.

CXXXII.—ROBERT LORD ROXBURGHE TO KING JAMES.

HIGHE, MIGHTIE, AND DREAD SOVERAYNGE,

It pleissid your most Sacred Majestie, be ane lait letter which I ressaued freme your graceous handis, to signefie (vpon some informatioun

concerning the Kirk of Drumfruis) your Highnes plessour that I should not oppose the sentence and decret of the Lordis of Session, the which John Murrey your Majesties servand wes to insist for, to strengthin the takk set to him of that kirk, whervpone he had served inhibitionn. It wer absurde and inexcusable boldnes to impefhe your Highnesse momentarie and hard compulshed leasour frome your Majesties weghtie essayes withe the whole treuthe, that I may justlie qualesie for my self in that mater, it being a thing vnworthe of your Majesties heiring, albeit to me of importance: So for all I haue to say, I humblye crave, at the justnes of your Highnessis knowin censure vpon vnderstanding of the treuthe, that ye will credit (to I may farther qualesie, if it be your Majesties plessour to heir me), that ther is no right that is nor can be had now, bot that which be your Princie and vnderferved liberaletie is in my power. And ther is siche preceeding accidentes whiche, before the Lord Maxwale¹ his heynous offences wes done agaynt your Majesties authoretie, that tis me vpon necessitie to look narrowlie to the estate of that errand: Beseid, if that takk alledged should stand in law, in respect of the burdings imposed vpon me be the Stipendis designed to everie Kirk in the erection of the Abbacie,² that preparative might lay vpon me intollerable burdings, which I am assured the vertew of so vpright authoretie as hes ever bene seene to grow withe your Majestie, will never lay vpon ane loyall and weill meaning subiect. Albeit the thing it self be of no reekning, yit the consequence tuichis me deeplie, I humblye beseeche your Majestie considder of it, for if it did no more harme me then the want of it self, I war vnworthe to braythe if I abode more then the knowledge of your graccous plessour that I should put it frome me, who hes made me, with all that I haue, so abill to leve. Ther is many things said concerning the Kirkis of that Abbacie, I beg it of your Highnes to give care and not trust to I may be hard, and then when the treuthe is cleered, command at

¹ John Lord Maxwell, was forfeited for treason, 24th June 1609.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv, pp. 411, 413.)

² A grant of the Abbacy of Dundrennan to John Murray, "ane of the gromes of his Majesties bed chamber," was confirmed by an Act of Parliament, 24th June 1609.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv, p. 444.)

your Majesties plessour, and that ever hes and shall in this lyffe reull me and my aëtioncs. Sua in all humilitie craving pardone for this presumptioun, I ceafs, bot shall ever pray God for your Majesties safetie and increfs of happines to I haue lyffe, with all dew respect, taking my leve, I rest,

Your Majesties humble, loyall, and alwayes
obedient subiect and fervitour,

ROXBURGHE.¹

CXXXIII.—MR PETER ROLLOCK OF PILTOUN TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAN,

Sence your Maieftie, out of your Highnes meir favour, far beyond ony merit could have bene in me, hath heirtofore, by my expectation, advancit me, most vnworthie, to findrie and diuerse degrees of honor and dignitie in this your Maiefties Kingdome, I could do no less nor, at your Maiefties pleafour, and for obedience of your Maiefties will, most willinglie and in all subjectione cease, first, from on of them,² and then from the whole impoymentis and prefermentis your Highnes did bestow vpon me. Yit finding now latelie since the tyme that I only of all³ am excludit from that place in your Maiefties College of Justice, wherinto befor your Sacred Maieftie hath fett me, and hath served your Maieftie tharin in all faythfulnes, and to this day (I prayse God, as the world knowis), without any on blamish; that it is not furnisfit, but planelie spoken almost be all, that it is not without some great cauis, and that I haue committed some seereit offence against your Sacred Maies- tie, for the which I am justlie thus dejected be that mightie, iust, and wyfe King, who, in all his lyf, did nevir deale so with any on of his Maiefties subiectis without a weghtie and well sene occasione. In this my

¹ Sir Robert Kerr of Cessford was created Lord Roxburghe, about the year 1599, and Earl of Roxburghe in 1616.

² As Bishop of Dunkeld: see No. V.

³ See note to page 225.

miferabill flate, fuch is my greiff, that I had rather die nor chwife to leiv: and if it can not pleas your Sacred Maieftie to cuir my wond, I with that presentlie my lyff wer at an end. If ony on thing be your Maieftie could be fayed againft me, then worthie I of ten thowfand deathis. But this is my only confort, that my confcience beareth witnefs with me, and there is no flefh can witnefs againft me. May it not please your ever clement Maieftie, confiddering my prefent miferie, remembering my bygane fervice, to pitie my gray hairis. Glaidlie trusting in your Highnes favour, quhairof no trew fubject diftreffit hath not had experience, I wold have presentit my felf in your Maiefties prefence, but afhamed to be fene ather at home or abroad, quill the expected beanis of your Highnes countenance in fome meafour brek out on me. I have imployed my Lord of Dumblane hereby to expone to your Maieftie my great greiff and miferie. Luiking for the declaratiōe of your Maiefties moft gracious will, and wilhing your Highnes (for the which I cuir pray the Almyghtie) a long and happie regne, I, in all humilitie of mynd, remainis,

Your Sacred Maiefties moft loyall fervand,

PETER ROLLOK.¹

To the King his moft Sacred Majefftie.

¹ Mr Peter Rollock of Piltoun passed Advocate before the year 1575. James Paton, Bishop of Dunkeld, having been deprived of his office, Rollock was appointed his successor: and his name occurs as titular Bishop in December 1585.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iii. p. 373.) On the 19th May 1596, Rollock, by his title of Bishop of Dunkeld, took his seat as an Extraordinary Lord of Session. He attended King James to England on his accession to the throne in 1603. In 1606, he resigned his benedice, for which he received pecuniary compensation, in order that Nicolson might be advanced to the Episcopal dignity. The above letter has no date, but it may be referred to January 1610, when Rollock was unceremoniously superseded to make room for Spottiswood as an Extraordinary Lord of Session. But this letter, and the one immediately following, from the Lords of Session, in Rollock's favour, seem to have had the desired effect, as on the 5th April that year, the King by letter "restored him to his place Extraordinaire, with special provision that his admission shall not be a preparative thereafter to establish the fifth Extraordinary Lord of Session."—(Senators of the College of Justice, p. 237.) He was accordingly readmitted, by his title as Lord Piltoun, 16th May 1610.

CXXXIV.—THE LORDS OF SESSION TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR SACRAT MAIESTIE,

Qubairas it pleafit your Sacrat Maieftie to declare all thais places in Sefsioun quhilk wes poffeft be the four Extraordinarie Lordis to be voyde,¹ and to difehairge everie one of thame of all forder privileged competent to thame be the fame, as your Hienes warrant fent to us for that effect dois recorde; and we haveing in mynde that one of thay places wes poffeft be Maifter Peter Rollock of Piltoun (the vtheris thre being now filled according to the command fent frome your Sacrat Maieftie to ws, quhairunto we moft willinglie in all humble and deutifull forte obeyit), wald thairfore, if it fo nicht stand with your Maiefties moft gracious pleafure, in all humble maner recommend to your Maiefties fauorable confideratioun the afoirfaid Maifter Peter Rollock, laft poffeffour of one of the faidis placeis; one, quho haveing fpend the moft of his tyme in learning, alfeuell without, as within your Maiefties kingdomes, and euir fence in the attendance in Sefsioun, and your Maiefties vther feruiceis, quhom now being of gritter age, we haif fund, and thairof will geve tefificatioun to your Hienes, to haue caried alwayis him felf in thais feruices that none wes more fordwart thairin, none more willing to difcharge that dewtie to all your Hienes fubiectis, quhilk wes requifite and expectit frome him; and with quhom we, for oure awin entrefis, had fufficient contentment and fatiffactioun, as quhom of none to oure knowledge ather inflie could or evir did complane: Moft humble defyring your gracious Maieftie, if he have not fallin in fum vther oversight

¹ “Upon the 20th of December 1609, there came a warrant from the King to discharge the Extraordinarie Lords of the Session upon the sight of his letter, without any cause declared but his own pleasure; which was thought verie strange. The Extraordinarie Lords at this time were these following, the Lord Elphinstoun, Sir Robert Melvill, the Pryour of Blantyre, and Mr Peter Rollock, sometyme styled Bishop of Dunkelden. But it was eleeerlie seene in the next moneth what the mater meant; for the Bishop of Glasgow, Mr Johne Spotswood, was placed in Mr Peter Rollock’s place, and the rest were restored to their own places.”—(Calderwood’s Hist., vol. vii. p. 53.)

(quhairwith we, for oure fellis, are not acquent), and if so it micht stand with your Maiesties goode will and plesure (quhilk to ws is and ever falbe the foueraue law, knowing how iust and lauchfull the samyn ever hes bene), that your Sacrat Maiestie wald be pleased to restore and admit him to that place agane, quhilk, be your Maiesties bountiefull permissioun, he hes posselt in Sessioun of before, quherin we hope he falbe so encouraged to proceid, and go on, in regard of this, and your Maiesties monifald vther fauours towards him, that no blemisch falbe fund quhilk iustlie may merite the schairpnes of your Maiesties censure. So wischeing your Maiestie long lyfe, most happie and prosperous raigne, we commit your Maiestie to the evirlasting protectioun of the Moste Hegh.

Your Maiesties most faithful and
obedient seruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^s. I.P.D.

JO. PRESTOUN.

S^r. TH. HAMILTON.

MAIRCAIRNY.

R. COKBURNE.

A. HAY.

L. CRAIG.

A. DRUMMOND.

KILSAYTH.

J. COKBURNE.

A. HAMILTON.

QUHITTINGHAM.

EDZELL.

CLERICUS REGISTR.

TUNGLAND.¹

Edinburgh, xith Jan. 1610.

To the King his most Sacrat Maiestie.

¹ This letter is indorsed "The 15 Sessioneris to his Majestic in favouris of Mr Peter Rollok." Upon a vacancy in the number of the Extraordinary Lords of Session having occurred by the death of Lord Blantyre, a letter was addressed to the King by the Judges, 13th March 1617, reminding his Majesty of the proposed arrangement, in April 1610, at the time of Rollock's restoration, that the first vacancy should not be filled up, but the number to continue, as formerly, limited to four.—(Melrose Papers, vol. i. p. 278.)

CCXXXV.—MR PATRICK FORBES OF CORSE TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE :

By that whiche your Majesties Secretarie hathe imparted wnto me, vnderstanding your Majestie to be offended with sum of my dealing, more for the defect in forme then matter, I wes therypoun feired by theife to cleare to your Majestie what I think the Informer hathe in my matter rather not throwlie knowne then malitioufflie concealed, so to recover and retain a place in your Majesties good grace, to whome, nixt God, I am bothe holden, and studie most cairfullie to approve my wayes. Being cast in these pairtes wheir, within the precinct of two Presbyteries at leift, twentie and one churches lay vnplanted, wherby our stait wes litle from heathenisme, I began in simple and privat maner (necessitie enforcing it on my conscience) to catechise my owne familie. Therefter the Churchemen of that province dealing earnestlie with me to accept of sum publict charge in the ministrie of the Church, whiche vpon divers respectful consideratiouns I culd not as then yeild to. They nixt with all instance requesited that at leift, for the good of vthers, I wold be content to transferr my domestick paines to ane void church, neir joining to my house, wherto having for ane space condiscendit, they efterwards, by their Commissioners from their Synode directed to me for that effect, yet more earnestlie intreated that I wold stil hold on that course whiche (as they judged) had bein in sum degrie fruitfull. Now, Sire, as this maid my voice to be heard in any publict place, so all my vther eariage therin (if ather they did informe who know it, or knew it who informe) hathe bein fuche, bothe in respect of the place, ane obscure corner, if any in all your Majesties kingdomes, and in respect of my quyet maner, so far from all pretenees, as I never opened my moutle in any vther part (albeit oftener then ons, ather serioufflie intreated or curioulffie tempted), and except ane ordinarie lection on the Lord his day, never medled with any part of that calling in privat or publict assemble, as I never imagined the knowledge of my dealing shuld have gone so farr as I now weil perceave (I wil not say the iuvye, but) the miscon-

struing thereof hath the part, and that (if your Majestie wer not as an angel of God) to overthrow me in your Majesties favour; wherin, nevertheless, if any approved Christian, let be your Majestie, had found them selves justlie offended, what upon request I was moved to do, being admonished, I was alwayes readie to forbear, so far have I alwayes bein, and hope in God stil to prove, from all buffie or turbulent dealing. And yet for suche a one, I am content to be accounted of your Maiestie, and demained accordinglye, if befoir I hard it from your Majestie, it wes ever signified to me by any that my doing wes in any respect offensive. So, remitting all to your Majesties rare wilddome and gracious consideration, I pray God giue your Majestie a long and prosperous reigne heir, and ane eternal with him selfe heirefter.

Your Maiesties humble subject,

P. FORBES of Corfe.

Edinburgh, 15 Februaire 1610.

To the King his sacred and most Excellent Majestie.

CXXXVI.—THE MINISTERS OF EDINBURGH, TO KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

We having tane notice by your Majesties Secretarie, of some hard information given foorth against us, and com'd to your Majesties cares, as thought our speeches in pulpit had tended in any sort to the impugning of any of your Majesties lawfull directions, whilk course, as we have ever bene loath and unwilling to follow: So, least we shuld ly under the burthling of this so untrue an report, we ar bold to present to your Highnes, by this our humble letter, the truth of this same, having at greater length imparted to my Lord Secretarie all the circumstances of that matter. When signification was given of your Majesties will and pleasure, anent a new collation and time of vacancie in the Winter Session, it was so mistaken univerfally, that the common sort thinking it to proclame to them libertie and lowfenes, to the whilk they ar so prone.

and the Papists and enemies of God's trueth taking hereof occasion of insolent speeches, as thought encouraged to looke for the returne of their former superstitious doing, we was forced in our sermons as to sett our selves against the vanitie of the people, and labour to tak from the enemies this mater of their joy: So to cleir your Majesties honest and godly intention being certified by my Lord Chancellor, directing to us the Baillies of this toun to that effect that there was none other thing meant be your Hienes but to give relaxation to the Lords of your Majesties Session at that season of the year. So that in meddling with this earand, we trust we have so caried our selves with respect to your Majesties honor, that we have ministrat no just occasion of offence. And gif the contrair shalbe alledged or qualified be any in whatfomever particular speache, we dout not bot our answer shall render contentment. And we know that your Majestie have never bene in use to condemn unheard. Whereas your Majestie hes likewise bene advertised of sum unreverent and impertinent speeches used in publick prayer concerning your Majestie by certane of the Brethren of this Presbyterie, we can assure your Majestie, that to our knowledge and hearing there is no such disorder, whereof gif any shallbe found culpable, your Majestie may persuade your self he shall not escape convenient censure, as we will be answerable to your Hienes, under whose wings we enjoy this liberty. The prooffe your Majestie hes had of our former proceeding, and knowledge your Majestie may tak of our hails carriage in our vocation by persons indifferent, and such as dois not hate us, and our ministry both, we doubt not will move your Majestie to foster some evil conceit of us, but in all accusations fallbe caried, leave place to us to answer for our selves. Thus referring to my Lord Secretary a moir speciall report, with whome we have bene plane in every thing, we humbly tak our leave, and commends your Majesties sacred person and estate to the blessing and protection of the Almighty. Edinburgh, 17 Februar 1610.

Your Majesties loving and obedient subjects,

JO. HALL.

M. P. HEWATT.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CXXXVII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEAS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE :

I can not dissemble the great assured hope I have of the gud and speedy finall accomplishment of your Majesties royall and godly designements in restablisshing the Estate of this befor misordered Kirk be your Majesties wise directions, that dayly take great increase of gud successe, with contentment even of the most part of the people, quihich hath moved me to stay here and to exercise the gift that God hes given me in preaching and attending vpon all counsellis and meetings, both ecclesiasticall and ciuill. The His Commissions are well and plainly accepted of all, and the Secretare hath contrived the same and vther purposes fit for our advancement, with authority and wisdom, to our great comfort : so that if one poynt quihich is in head be profecute. I doubt nothing of greater perfectione than in anies imagination could have been performed in so short time ; and therfor your Majestie hes great mater to blisse that gud God who is ever your assistant, and wilbe to the end, in thos your religious and wise intentions ; and your Majestie may looke for vniforme and constant service in all my brethren the Prelats ; quhom also your Majestie will pleas incowrage, partly be supporting the necessity of the indigent that lacke moyen, specially the Bishop of Cathnes, partly quhen places of the Session fall vaicke, be promoting some moe to the same, quihilk will both repaire the decay of our livings and patrimonies, and procure the dependance of the rest of the ministrie, who have their fortunes and effaits subject to the pleasure of that Judicatory.

The Secretare hath gotten discloset to him the arryvall of Mr Andro Duncan in thire parts, and hath entered in tryall of Mr William Murray, present minister in Craill :¹ he will informe your Maieitie more fully thairant, albeit the said Mr William, in my opinion, willbe found within

¹ Duncan, who was admitted Minister of Craill in September 1597, was banished by King James in 1606. Murray had been appointed his assistant in 1598. He continued to officiate in the parish as Minister till October 1624, when he was deposed.—(Synod of Fife, Abbotsford Club, pp. 190, 204.)

compas of law, yit it is my humble adwife to your Maieftie that some conuivence falbe towards him for a feafone, that we may have out of him some fervice at this great dyet. Your Maieftie knows, for he can doe very well, and his fway wilbe important. Referring the reft to the fufficiency of the bearer, I befeike God to bliffe your Maieftie with a long and happy life, with increas of all grace and profperity in your Maiefties royall government. So I abyde,

Your Maiefties moft humble fervant and devoted orator,

SANCTANDROIS.

Ed^r 18 Feb^r 1610.

CXXXXVIII.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

Pleas your moft Excellent Maiefty : The greit and continuing peace off this your Hienes kyngdome, vnder your Maiefteis moft religious and happie governement, giffis ws all nocht only full contentment, bot lykvyis plentifull occaifoun to multiply thankigiffing to God for your Maiefteis prefervatioun. Specialy quheras thir pairtis of this your Hienes kyngdome being befoir nocht fo fully reducit to futehe obedience as now thai ar, be your Hienes greit care and providence, we redouble our prayars to God for your Hienes long and prosperous ftate. Thair ar very few off any rank bot ar both peaceable and lowers of peace, amongft quhom this gentleman (albeit nocht of the religioun), the Laird off Geycht,¹ hes felihin him felff a greit furdere and favorer of your Maiefteis peace in the boundis of his duelling and refidence; efppecially being employed be ane letter of myne in your Maiefteis name to fetle ane prefent apperance off ane very apperand break, quhilk he did accomplifche and bring to a perfyt fetling. This hes movit me to giff

¹ "George Gordon, fear of Gicht," son of William Gordon of Gicht, "and his ladye," are included in the list of Excommunicated Papists, 23d December 1604.—(Kirk Session Records of Aberdeen, Spalding Club, p. 44.)

testimonie be my awin experience off his peaceable inclinatioun. I hoip nochttheles your Hiene will nocht suspect my profeffioun for that I am movit to testifye the trowth of sum Papiests quhilkis I perceawe ar nocht vniuersaly of ane corrupt dispositioun. The gentleman is diseased, and subiect to divers infirmitis, quhilkis he can nocht gett remedied heir, and vald humbly craiff your Hiene licence to seik his health in sum vther cuntrey. If your Maiesty be so myndit, it apperis to be more convenient the samin be granted be your Hiene awin Royall power, then be the Counsell of this your Hiene kyngdome, and that for preventing of a dangerous preparative, quhilk mycht be induced in respect of his present estate; and quhovbeit thair is no greit mater off feir or suspitioun off his traffiquing, being hitherto so quyetly disposed, yit your Maiesteis awin commandement will so abandoun him, that he will nocht perrell your Maiesteis favour nor abuse your Hiene benefite for all his valiant. Thus most humbly craiffing your Maiesteis pardoun for this my boldnes, my humble and earnest prayars daylie continewit for your Hiene long, happie, and maist prosperous state, I besek God, the fountane of all grace and blessing, to bleis your Hiene heir and eternally.

Your Hiene most affectionat and most luffing servitour,

ALEXANDER B. OFF MURRAYE.

Elgene, the 20 day off Februar 1610.

To his most Excellent Maieste.

CXXXIX.—THE BISHOP OF DUNKELD TO KING JAMES

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACREID SOVERANE,

SENCE it hes bein your Maiesteis most royall cair to restoir the decayit benefices in Scotland, and to help thair lossis with thair awin patrimony, as any pairt thair of fuld fall in your Maiesteis hands, quhilk is the onlye and fittell way to do the same; and now the Kirk of Cra-

mound fallin in your Maieftis hands, I culd not of dewtie omitt to remember your Maieftie that that kirk may be reftorit agane to the Bifchoprick of Dunkeld, fra quhilk the fame wes difmemberit. And quhair it may be allegit that Megle wes gevin in recompence to Dunkeld for Cramound: Pleis your Maieftie, the treuth is, that my Lord Balmerinoch obtenit firft ane penfioun of four hundreth pundes out of Dunkeld, and not fatiffet thairwith, obtenit firft takkes of the Kirk of Auchterhous, and nixt the erectioun thairof; and efter baith thir, obtenit lang takkes of the Kirk of Cramound,¹ and nixt alfo the erectioun thair- of, fum four or fyve yeires befor the annexing of Megle to Dunkeld, itt being a comoun kirk thairof of befor, and poffeffit be Mr James Nicol- foun, perfone of the fame, and fwa it culd not be gevin in recompance, Megle being euir a pairt of the patrimony of Dunkeld, and Cramound obtenit be him a lang tyme of befor. Itt is mervellous, as ernift as your Maieftie hes bene and is to help the decayit partis of our delapidat benefices, fa as ernift men hes bene and ar, be policie to difmember and owirthrow the fame. Befekand your Maieftie to haue a regaird thair- vnto, and to the helping of this mater, quhilk being your Maieftis will and plefour, may be eafelic, by your Maieftis directioun, helpit at this tyme in better meafour nor can be heirefter: referring alwayes the fame to the greitnes of your Maieftis wilidome and confideratioun, out of the quhilk I dout not bot your Maieftis cair will fwa help this benefice, that ane honeft man may leive and ferue your Maieftie thairin. Swa humlie craving your Maieftie to excuis my cirmiffnes, quhairvnto the oportunitie of tyme movis me, for give thir our loffis be not repairit in your Maieftis tyme, quhat falbe our hope heirefter? I humlie recom- mend your Maieftie to the Almightie, quha mot euir grant your Maieftie a long, a happie, and a prosperous regne.

Your Maieftis moft humble oratour,

DUNKELD.

Edr 22 Febrü 1610.

To his moft Sacreid Maieftie.

¹ See the former letter on this subject, No. CXVIII.

CXL.—MR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL AND MR JOHN YOUNG,
MINISTERS, TO KING JAMES.

[The following letter is indorsed,—“The Supplication of the Ministers of Irwin that ar committed.”—Campbell was minister of Ardrossan and Stevenston, and Young minister of Beith, within the Presbytery of Irvine. On the 31st of January 1610, the Privy Council ordered Mr John Young, Mr Alexander Campbell, and other three ministers in that Presbytery, to compear on the 15th of February, to answer for inter-communing with “Johne Campbell, *alias* Fader Chrisostome, ane knowne trafficquing priest, returning laitie within this realme, of purpois and intention to haif seduceit simple and ignorant people frome acknowledging of the treuth, and to hafe maid schipwrak of the faith, &c.”—(New Stat. Account, Ayrshire, p. 594.) The result appears to have been the temporary confinement of Young and Campbell.]

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAINE,

We haue our onlie recourse to your Maiestie, in this our distressit estait : Your Hienes Privie Counfall of this Kingdome, haweing committed ws for the refetting of one Jhone Campbell, a Capuchin Frier, a fault nocht to be exentit, becaus doune aganes your Hienes lawes, yit be ws doune onlie of naturall affectioun, he being brother-german to the one of ws, and to the other, brother-in-law, and upon no contempt (as God falbe mercifull to ws) of your Maiestie, nor for ony euill intentione, for quiche we ar nocht suspectit of any. We humblie begge pardoun of your Gracious Majestie, protesting that no thing hes come to ws, in our lylis more grevoufe, then thus to haue incurrit your Hienes justt offence : And gif it fall please your Hienes, quhois mercifull inclination towartis all your Majesties subjectis, and specially men of our calling, is more than notour, to accepte ws at this tyme in favour, and take pitie on our miserable case, haweing our familieis and flokis now cast lowfe in our defaultis : We do faithfullie promeis all humble service and obedience to your Majestie, and a moir circumspect walking herefter, fo as we fall newir, be God his helpe, incurre your Hienes indignation after this, for ony cause quhatsoewir : for quiche we trust your Majesties fervant and Counsellour the Archbischop of Glasgou will gif his word and writt, quiche we falbe lothe to breake or falsifie : And so vpon our

kneis humble requeifing your Hienes gracious pardon, we pray God Almightie to giwe your Maieftie mony dayes and yeiris, in all happines and prosperitie.

Your Majesties puire and humble oratours,

MR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL.

MR JOHNNE YOUNG.

CXLI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO KING JAMES.

SIRE,

Pleas your Maieftie, I wrote be the paquet to my Lord Dumber of the refolutioun we had takin in your Hienes affairis, and the hopis we confavit of a gud fuccesse in the Affemblic. The present dispositioun of our Ministrie is fuehe as it maid ws earnest to haif the dyet preventit. and to desyr the sam mycht hold the eight of May; for your Maieftie knowis tham a peple subiect to change, and caryit easilie with the wind of every report. They haif at this tym ane strong apprehensioun of the discharge of Presbiteries, and for the standing thair of, in ony tolerable forte, wil refuse no conditionis; so wer it gud to vse the opportunitie to cutt tham schort of thair power, and leaue tham a bare name, quliche for the present may please, but in a litle tym sal evanische. As twiching the dyet, we expect to vnderstand your Hienes pleasure schortly, and qhether your Maieftie tak course to prevent or hold the first appointment, we sal not fail to vse al diligence in preparing men for that meting.

Now, Sir, I haif ben this day advertist of your Hienes purpose anent the Marquis of Huntley, and becaufe I wald be fory to se any thing done that might bred impediment to your Maiesties effairs, I wil craif your Hienes pardon to infist in the contrair of his inlargement for this tym. Suppose he hes subseryvit the Articles presentit from your Maieftie vnto him, it is a thing not vnderstand either in the Kirk or in the Countrey, and continewing excommunicat, if he salbe permittit to go to his home, it will not fail to bred grit offense. The Ministeris of those

partis that haif euer ben best affectit in your Hienes service falbe gritlie difheartit, and otheris our enemyis be glaid of the occafion to fay, that nothing hes ben meant in effect againt Papiftis. Befydis, thofe North countreyis ar fo ftill inclynit, as it is thoct his prefence is ynonghe to fhake Religioun thair, vuleffe his return be with gud cautionis, and the fam kuowen and vnderftand to al. Thairfore I do humbly intreat your Maieftie, for the regard of your Hienes particular fervice, to qliehe it is reafon any fubiectis ease or contentment fuld gif place, and that we haif not new difficulties bred ws, quhen we ar vpon the finifhing of thingis. that it may pleife your Maieftie to continew this his enlargment vnto the Affemblic, in qliehe he may be abfolvit from excommunicatioun, and ordour takin be your Hienes commandement for the quyetnes and peace of Minifteris in thofe partis. Thus far I am bold, and now kifing your Maiefties handis, I reft

Your Maiefties humble and obedient fervitour,

GLASGOW.

Glasgo, the 12 of Marche 1610.

CXLII.—KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
TURREFF.

JAMES R.

Trustie and weilbeloued, We greit you weil. Albeit We, iustlie fearing the difordouris that might aryse in the Generall Affemblye appoynted to hold at St Androis, the day of May nixt, by reafone of the differences in the Churche for mater of difcipline, did, by Our letters, published in February last, defert the said meiting; and fpeciallye declaired, that it wes not Our mynd to appointe any new Affemblye, before We wer fully affured of the peaceable inclinatioun of fuche of the Miniftrie who should meit and conveyne thereat: Yit having receaved of lait dyuers aduertementis of great confufioun arying in the Churche by reafone of the lous and vnftetled government which is therein, and being entraited by findrie of Our goode fubiectis

for licence to some generall meeting of the Churche, wherein hoip is gevin Ws, that some good cours, by commoun consent, should be taken for redrefs of all misfordouris, and this diuision of myndes that hes so long continowed among the Ministeris (to the great scandall of their professioun), should at last ceis and be vtterly extinguished, We haue bene pleased to yeild to there requeistis, and granted liberty for a Generall Assambley to be halden at Glasgou the vijth day of June nixt: And therefore We will and requyre you to mak choise of the most wyse, discreit, and peccable disposed Ministeris among you, to meet and conueyne the saidis day and place, instructed with sufficient commissioun from the rest (as in other Assambleyes you haue bene accustomed), and haue cair that they come specially aduysed thereto; bothe anent the excommunicat Earles, what ordour falbe taken with them for there satisfactioun of the Churche; anent the lait Erectiounis, to communicat to Our Commissionaris the estait of euerye churche within any of the samyn, the maintenance allowed thereto; ane overtour for suppleing the churches which are not sufficientlie provydit; and what the best course to be taken for the ready payment of the Ministeris, so as they be not distracted from there chaire, and forced to attend the law for discussing suspensiounis, and suche lyke questiounis arryng therevpoun: In which poynts We haue had many greuous complaintis from dyuers of the Ministrie there, and vnderstoode Our good purpos tuiching them and there maintenance to bene wonderfully crossit. And that they be ready to giue there best opinioun in all the former poyntis, and in euerye thing els that falbe demandit of them for the goode and peace of the Churche. And becaus by letter We haue acquaynted the Bishope of your Diocye of Our purpos heirin, and sent vnto him a speeciall note of the names of suche as We desyre to be at the said meeting, it is Our pleasour that you conforme your self thereto, and mak choise of the persones that We take to be fittest for geving aduys in all maters, wherein you fall do Ws acceptable service, and so bids you fairweill. From Our Court at Whitehall, the last of Marche 1610.

To Our trustie and wellbeloued the Ministeris
of the Presbiterye of Turreff.

CXLIII.—MISSIVE FROM KING JAMES THE SIXTH.

JAMES R.

Truſtic and well beloved, We greet you well. Albeit We, juſtly fearing the diſorders that might ariſe in the General Aſſembly appointed to be holden at Sanct Andrewes, the day of May next, be reaſon of the differences now in the Church for matters of diſcipline, did be Our Letters, publiſhed in Februar laſt, deſert the ſaid meeting; and ſpecially declared, that it was not Our mind to appoint any new Aſſembly, before We were well aſſured of the peaceable inclination of theſe of the Miniſtry who ſhould meet and conven therat: Yet having been lately advertiſed of great confuſion ariſeing in the Church, by reaſon of the looſe and unfettled government which is therein, and being intreated be ſundry of Our good ſubjects, Biſhops, Miniſters, and others, for licence to ſome general meeting of the Church, wherein hope is givin Us, that ſome good courſe by common conſent ſhall be taken for redreſs of all unorders, and the diviſion of minds that has ſo long continued among the Miniſtry, to the great ſeandal of their profeſſion, ſhould ceaſe and be extinguished, We have been pleaſed to yield to their requieſts, and granted liberty for a General Aſſembly to be holden at Glaſgow, the 8th day of June next: And, therefore, We will and require you to make choiſe of the moſt wiſe, diſcreet, and peaceably diſpoſed Miniſters among you, to meet and conven the ſaid day and place, inſtructed with ſufficient commiſſioun from the reſt, as in other Aſſemblies you have been accuſtomed; and to adviſe anent the excommunicated Erles, what order ſhall be taken with them for their ſatiſfaction of the Church: anent the late Erections, to communicat to Our Commiſſioners the eſtate of every church within any of the ſame, the maintainance allowed there-to; an overture for ſupplying the churches, which are not ſufficiently

It will be obſerved, that this letter, which Calderwood has preſerved, is nearly verbatim with the preceding; ſimilar miſſives, with ſuch occaſional variations as ſeemed to be requiſite, having been ſent to the various Presbyteries. Nos. CXLIV. and CXLV. exhibit Royal miſſives of the ſame tenor, addreſſed to individuals.

provyded; and what is the beſt courſe to be taken for the ready pay-
ment of the Miniſters, ſo as they be not diſtracted from their charge,
and forced to attend the Law for diſcuſſing of ſuſpenſions, and ſuch like
queſtions ariſeing thereupon: in which point We have had many grievous
complaints from diverſe of the Miniſters there, and underſtood Our
good purpoſe touching them and their maintainance to have been
wonderfully croſſed; and that they be ready to give their beſt opinion
in all the former points, and in every thing elſe that ſhall be demaunded
of them for the good peace of the Church. And becauſe by Our Letters
we have particularly acquainted the Archbiſhop of Sanct Andrews¹ of
Our purpoſe herein, and ſent unto him a ſpeciall note of the names of
ſuch as We deſire to be at Our ſaid meeting; it is Our pleaſure, that
you conform yourſelves thereto, and make choice of the perſons that We
take to be fitteſt for giving advice in all matters; wherein ye ſhall doe
Us acceptable ſervice. We bid you farewell.

From Our Court at Whitehall, the
firſt of Aprile 1610.

CXLIV.—KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO SIR JOHN SKENE OF
CURRIEHILL, CLERK REGISTER.

JAMES R.

Truſtie and weilbeloved Couuſellour, We greite yow weil.
Whereas We have appointed a meeting of the Church of that King-
dome to be at Our cittie of Glaſgow, the viijth of Junij nixt: In regarde
therefore of your knowne love and affection to the weil and peace of
the Church, and of the manie good proofs We have had of your for-
wardnes in Our ſervice alwayes, We have made particular choice of
yow, whoſe preſence wilbe verie requiſitt at that meeting; not doubting
but vpoun this advertiſement both yow will addreſſe your ſelf thither,
and doe no leſſe good offices thereat, then We doe expect for at your

¹ See the letter, No. CLI., from the Archbiſhop of St Andrews to the Presbytery of Chirneſyde.

hands: of which We will ever be myndfull, And fo bids yow farewell.
From Our Court at Whitehall, the 2 of Aprile 1610.

To Oure trustie and weilbeloued Coun-
fellow, Sir Johne Skene of Curriehill
knight, Clerk of Register.

CXLV.—KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO MR GEORGE LINDSAY, MINISTER.

JAMES R.

Trustie and weilbeloued, We greit you weil. The manie proofes We haue heirtofore found of your forduardnes in Our service, and of your earnest desyre of the weil of that Church, hathe moved Ws to mak particular choise of you to be present at Our citie of Glasgou, the eight of Junij nixt, to consult, advyse, and conelude with the Fatheris of the Church, and best affected of the Ministrie, vpoun the fittest groundis for settling of peace and concorde, and repressing of the grouthe and incres of the common enemye who daylie taketh advantage vpoun this diuision among your selves, and for establishing of suche further ordour, and repressing of all vice, sinne, and enormitie, as at your meiting you shall think fitt and expedient for God's glorie, the weil of the Church, Our service, and conforte of all trew professouris. Agane which tyme, persuading Our selfe of your presence and forduard concurranee to so goode and godlie a worke, all frivolous excuses sett a parte, as you may fully expect Our speciall remembrance of your paines therein, We bid you fairweill. From Our Court at Whitehall, the 2 of Aprile 1610.

To Our trustie and weilbeloued Mr
George Lindsay,¹ Minitter.

¹ Probably a clerical error for Mr *Patrick* Lindsay, Minister of St Vigeans, who was present at the Assembly. He was promoted to the See of Ross in 1613.

CXLVI.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUSE AND SACRED SOVERAIGNE,

We reſaivit your Maieſties letter be the Lord Secretarie, contening ſum direſtiounis for the better proceding of your Hienes ſervice committed vnto vs. In al the particularis we haif agreit to conform our ſelfis, and tak ſuche courſe as your Maieſtie may haif ful contentment, and at laſt ſie the Governement eſtabliſhit, quiche hes ben of your Highnes longe deſyrit: And becauſe his Lordſhip wes ernest with vs that we ſuld reſolue, according to your Maieſties pleaſure, vpon a preſent accepting of the ſervice vpon vs, and mak no longer delayis, quhairvnto he gaif vs many incouragementis, and very effectuell perſwaſiounis, as we muſt confeſſe that we wer gritlie movit thairby. So we advyſit, to gif al of vs vnder our handis aſſurance to your Maieſtie of our reſolutionn that way, and how we wilbe ſo far from detrecting the ſervice, as we ſal not ceaſe til be Godis helpe the ſamin be brocht to ane gud and happie end. Of the meanis how to bring this about, ar our preſent deliberatiounis: we ſal tak, be Godis helpe, the moſt ſafe and ſure way, and qhat we vndertak, we ſalbe anſwerable to your Maieſtie for performance. We haif al our Miniſteris, even ſuche as wer moſt refractarie, at the point of toleratioun: thay wil ſuffer thingis to proceed and be quyet, becauſe thai can no longer ſtryve; but ghen thai ſal eſpy the fruttis of a better governement we do not doubt thai wilbe better myndit. Sum particularis we haif committit to the Secretaries remembrance, and haif ſet tham down in a note beſydis, quhairof we humble intreat your Maieſties anſwer, with the firſt occaſioun: And now, ceaſing to be troubleſom, we beſeche God Almychtie to multiply your Maieſties yeiris, with al increaſe of happines.

Your Maieſties moſt bounden and ever devoted ſervantis,

M. A. BRECHIN.	A. B. CATHNESS.	SANCTANDROIS.
JO. LISMOREN.	B. GALLOWAY.	GLASGOW.
DUMBLANEN.	JA. B. OF ORCADS.	DUNKELD.

CXLVII.—THE MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF HIGH COMMISSION IN
THE PROVINCE OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOVERAINE,

May it please your most Excellent Maiestie. Efter that we had receaved informationn of your Majesteis pleasure that we fould accept vpon ws to ferne your Maiestie in this High and Soverane Commiffioun,¹ we war verie glaid, bothe that your Maiestie continues your great and vucellant cair for the weill and peace of the Kirk, and Commonweill of this your Maiesteis ancient kingdome; as also, that in the multitude of wyfe and godly men of bothe Estaittis your Hienes hath maid choice of ws most vnitt, and so ascribe this honour to your Maiesteis vnderferved fauour, and nocht to our merit, which shall encourage ws, and eache of ws, according to the place that God and your Maiestie hath granted ws, to kythe faithfull and trew fervandis to your Maiestie in this employment, which we hope shall prove most necessarrie and profitable for the guid of this Church and Commonwealth: And as we haue accepted this day the fernice, we humble beseeche your Maiestie, oure Souerane Lord and leadar, bothe to aequent ws with the particular seruices wherin your Maiestie will imploy ws, and siefyik to sett down such reules and limitis to our seruice as your Maiestie, out of your incomparabill wisdome, shall think fittest. We thank God for this motioun he hath put in your Maiesteis royall hart, and shall behave our selfes so in executioun thair of,

¹ The Commission given under the Great Seal to the Archbishops of St Andrews and Glasgow, to hold Courts of High Commission, within their respective Dioceses, was published at the Cross of Edinburgh, in March 1610. The Commission is dated 15th February 1610, and is contained in Calderwood's History, vol. vii. p. 57, and in the Booke of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii. p. 1078.

It may be added, that the letters of acceptance from the Archbishop of Glasgow and the Members of his Diocese are not known to be preserved. The previous letter, No. CXLVI., without date, is in Spottiswood's hand. Wodrow supposed it might have been written in January 1610: it evidently belongs to this period, and seems to have had reference either to the High Commission, or to the Conference (which Calderwood says lasted for three days) with the Earl of Dunbar, "contriving how to order matters," at the meeting of the General Assembly, in June following.

as we hope to pleis God and your Maieftie. Thus, efter humill thanks to your Maieftie for refpecting bothe this cuntrie and ws, we befeeche God to blis your Maieftie with a long and profperous regne.

Your Maiefteis moft humill and obedient fubjectis and fervandis,

	SANCTANDROIS.	MONTROSE.
	AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.	KINGORNE.
	A. B. CATHNESS.	M. A. BRECHIN.
	JA. B. OF ORCADS.	M. ARTHOUR FETHIE.
	R. LYNDESAY.	MR HENRIE PHILPE.
	D. SCONE.	MR ROBERT WILKIE.
M. JO. MICHELSONE.	D. CARNEGIE KYNARD.	MR JAMES MARTINE.
MAISTER JHONE STRACHIN.	JO. PRESTOUN.	MR DAUID MONYPENNIE.
MR P. LINDESAYE.	S. T. HAMILTON.	MR ROBERT HOVYE.
AN. LEICHE.	DAUID RAMSAY, Balmain.	J. WEMIS, Commiffar of St Androis.

St Androis, the tenth of Aprile 1610.

To the King his Moft Excellent Majeftie.

CXLVIII.—THE MEMBERS OF THE SAME COURT OF HIGH COMMISSION TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOUERAIGNE,

May it pleas your moft Excellent Majeftie, having conveyened this day for accepting your Majefties Hiche Commiffione, it hath bene proponed to ws anent your Majefties pleafour tuiching the Marquis of Huntley, we have thocht meit moft humble to interpone our advyfe to your Majeftie, that, fince the Marquis hath fo oft contravened his awne fubfcriptions, he be not licenfed be your Majeftie to returne to his awne houffes: the eyes of all the favourers of the Gofpel ar vpon the event of

this matter, and ar to conceave ather hope or mistrust accordingle as they find the Marquis vied: And we esteeme that quhosoever advyse your Maiestie to dismitte him so soone ar not so provident for your Maiesties honour and gude estimatione among the best of your Majesties people as becomethe, nether ar they cairfull to mainteene our credite quho ar burdened with your Majesties service. Finallie, if your Majestie hath onie service of importance to aecomplishe this Summer, ther is nothing so prejudicial to the fame, nather anie thing that will give greater occasione to the seditions to spread their misconstructions, than the Marquis his liberatione from his present confyning.

Thair is ane Supplicatione given to ws be the Burgh of Dundie for appoynting one Mr William Wedderburne¹ to be thair pastour; to the quhilk we have condiscendit for the man his speciall gude graeces, provyding your Majesties Royal consent be obtenit thairto. We ar to intreat your Majestie for the same, and we salbe ansverable for taking cautione and suretie of him for his conformitie and obedience in suche sort as your Majestie shall ather preseryve, or as in our best judgementtis salbe thoctt surest. Thus loking for your Majesties most gracious ansvuer with diligence, and awaiting for your Majesties forder directions, we besseik God that your Majestie long and happielie may reigne over ws, to God his glorie, and your Majesties immortall honour and salvatione.

Your Majesties most humble and devoted
servands and oratours,

SANCTANDROIS.

AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.

A. B. CATHNESS. M. A. BRECHIN.

M. ROBERT HOVYE. J. A. B. OF ORCADS.

M. P. LINDESAY.

Sanctandrois, 10 Apryl 1610.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CXLIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOUVERAIN,

May it please your most Excellent Maiestie : I can not dissemble the gude appeirance of prosperous success that your Maiesties services ar to haue in the gouernement Ecclesiastick and reformatione thairof : for the wyfe fort ar readdie to embrace your Maiesties determinatione simplic. The great multitude of the Ministerie ar desyrous that Presbiteries fall stand, bot directed and gouerned be the Bischops, and so wald referre great matters to be done onlie be the consent and authoritie of the Bischops. The few number of the contradicents to Episcopal iurisdictione ar content to be silent ; so that your Maiestie neidis not to enter in onie dishonorable conditions. Yea, I quho sitt heir in the place of seditione and contradicitione, haue perfyte obedience to all my directions ; and therfor I am bold humbly to advyse your Maiestie, that in the designatione of place of this enfewing Assëmblye your Maiestie mak choise ather of the place appoynted be the last Assëmblye,¹ quhilk will help the formalitie of it, or than of Dundie, quhair your Maiestie knawis your awne Northerne men may haue best commoditie to repaire. And albeit your Maiesties princelie liberalitie may supplie distance of place be furniture to those that travell ; yet, Sire, quhy fould your Maiestie direct that meeting to ane corner of the countrey ? quhilk both will breed needles mischance to the pure Ministers, and minister occasione of thinking that it is done for feare, and so will make it want that lustre and beautie quhiche ane thing so lawful and easie merits to haue. And so do I think of the President of that Assëmblye, that your Maiestie will need no policie to bring in ane vther than him quhome your Maiestie alreddie hes preferred thairto, it being the Primate his proper office vnder your

¹ In the General Assembly at Linlithgow, 26th July 1608, the next Assembly had been appointed to be held at Edinburgh, in May 1609 ; but was afterwards prorogued till May 1610, and the place of meeting changed to St Andrews.—(Booke of the Kirk, vol. iii. pp. 1077, 1083.) On the 14th February 1610, however, this meeting in May was discharged by a proclamation : see Calderwood's History, vol. vii. p. 55.

Maieftie, quhiche your Maieftie will find easilie effectuaded, for none will come thair of purpos to serve your Maieftie bot the same will gine first pruiſ in that cace; and if it be requiſite, your Maieftie will find, that I being put in leat with onie of the Biſchops, the Miniſterie fall inclyne quhair they ar bounden of dentic. This I ſpeak, Sire, not for prærogative of my perſone, bot of my place,¹ quhiche as it bearis greateſt burden, ſo I hope your Maieftie will ſee it honored, for the better enabling the poſſeſſour to bear out all your Maieſties ſervices competent thairto. Bot this I moſt humble remitte to your Maieſties wyfe conſideratione and gude pleaſoure, quhilk falbe to me as ane ſaered oracle.

At my deſyre the Lords and wthers of the Hie Commiſſione convened heir in Sanctandros, and aſiſted me with ſo great alacritie and ſolemnitie, promeiſſing continuance in that ſervice, as I am not able to expreſſe, quhiche the vther miſſiue directed from themſelfs will ſignifie to your Maieftie. Of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, onlie Maifter Peter Hewat wes preſent. Maifter Patrik Galloway refuſed to come, and ſtayed alſo Maifter Jhone Hall. Your Maieftie muſt kenne, yet ouerſee him quhill thoſe turnes be endit.

Maifter Jhone Fairfoul his entrie to the miniſterie of Anſruther in Maifter Robert Durie his rowme, is delayed vpon ane petitione of the people and Preſbitrie to me, that Maifter Jhone Dykes² may be placed thairin, ernestlie requeiſting me to be ſuppliant to your Maieftie for him, quho hes alſo ſend to me ſindrie meſſages and promeiſſes of conformitie and obedience to your Maieſties injunctiōns. So for ſatiſſactione of thair importunitie I delayit quhil your Maieftie ſould ſignifie your awne pleaſour, quhich I moſt humble beſeech your Maieftie to doe, and ſo to relieue me of that burden. Quhil your Maieftie ſend back your pleaſour and præciſe directione I will get no reſt, nather that matter be ſettled; for as for me, I will not præſume to mak intres for

¹ This claim of preference, on the part of Gladſtanes, as Primate, to act as Moderator of the approaching Aſſembly, was unſucceſſful.

² The propoſed arrangement did not take place at this time, as Fairfoull became Miniſter of Anſruther. Mr John Dykes had been admitted "fellow-labourer" with Mr James Melville, Miniſter of Kilrennie, in 1596, and was translated to Newburn, in October 1601. Ten years later, Dykes was again brought to Kilrennie, when Mr Ephraim Melvill became his ſucceſſor at Newburn.

onie quha hes giuen your Maieftie iust caus of offence. I haue discharged Maister Ephraim Meluil from preaching, as your Maieftie directed; bot fenfyne the parochiners haue giuen in ane petitione to me and the Presbitrie for having him to be thair ordinar pastour, quhich, notwithstanding the consent of the Presbitrie, I refused quhil your Maieftie declair your will thairanent; for it is verie offensiue that the people wantis preaching. If your Maieftie wald tak this mids, to giue permissione to Maister Jhone Dykes to preach in Kilrinnie, quhilk is ane famous congregatioun, and to Maister Ephraim to supplie Maister Jhone his rowme, quhich is most obscure and quyet, it wald foster the said Mr Jhone his begun resipience, and interteene some peece of emulation among themselves.

Thair is no obedience anent the Ministers thair gownes and cassacques; therfor it will please your Maieftie to send down ane new directione to me thairanent, commanding them to conforme themselves to the patterne of those quhich wee the Bischops haue alreddie resauit; for I tak that those of the Bischops and of the Ministers in forme ar both one, and the difference sould be in the stuff and facing of them. Sielyk it will please your Maieftie to giue me directione anent the Provest of this Citie his scarlet gowne, with licence to the Deane of Gild and Bailzies to weare blak gownes.

I most humble crave your Maiefties pardon for impefeling your Maiefties gritter affaires so boldlie; bot I hope your Maiefties inclinatione will not offend at ane Seruand quho, in fidelitie and affectione, salbe inferiour to none, albeit in gifts or merite most unworthie of your Maiefties favour. I hope your Maieftie wilbe so gracious as to commande the Secretair to dispatche answere to those affaires with convenient diligence. Thus I besek God to blesse your Maieftie with all grace and prosperitie ener. I remaine,

Your Maiefties most humble seruant and devoted oratour,

SANCTANDROIS.

Sanctand., 18 Apryle 1610.

To the Kinge his most Excellent Maieftie.

CL.—KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AT GLASGOW.

JAMES R.

Right reverend Fatheris in God, right trustye and right wel-
belovned Confeingis, Counfellouris, and otheris, Our trustye and loveing
subiectis now conveyned in this present Assembly, We greitt you weil.
If the most sharpe censure wer takin of every ones particular affectioun to
the Religion profesed, We may very justlye boaste, without allectatioun,
of Our evir continewit constaneye (praised be God), notwithstanding of
bothe the allurementis, as also the threatningis of the adverfarye, and of
the misbehaviour, yea, the proude and often treasonabill contemptis of
some of Our subiectis of this same professioun. So that none vnto whome
ather Our bypast lyife hathe bein knowne, or to whome Our present
actiounis ar notour, bot they without doubt rest fullye persuadeit heirof,
since We haif now oppynlye declared Ourselfs to be the principall oppo-
site on Earthe to the Antichristian enemye, aganis whome to Our last
breathe, without respect of hazard, we do intend to mainteyne and
defend the treuth profesed. And as it hathe pleased God in his mercye
to appoynte Ws to be the nuriffather of his Churche heir on earth, e,
within Our dominions, so do We intend evir to be most cairfull for
setting forward of all such thingis whiche may advance his glorye, and
broid quyetnes and peace in the Churche, vnto whiche nothing hathe
bein so greitt an enemye as the want of ordour and government, with-
out whiche no bodye or state, either Ecclesiastick or Civill, can subsiste.
And however the singularitye of some did for a certaine space mainteyne
ather by wilfulnes or ignorance a sort of headles government, yit ere
longe it did kyithe what inconvenience and hairme might ensue to the
Church and advancement of the Gospell by any longer continuance
thereof; which moved Ws endureing Our stay there in Our owne per-
son to tak so greitt paynes for finding remeid to this, whiche other-
wayes had tryed, so vncurable a canker being permitted to haif had any
further progres; and thereypou at that tyme wisheing to do thinges

rather by consent then absolutelye out of Our royall power and authorite, (whiche wes also very lauchfull, and granted vnto Ws by God him self,) We therevpoun not only assisted and countenanced fundrye Assemblies of that Church by Our presence, bot hathe caused otheris to be conveyned since Our depairture from thenc; haueing to Our greitt coastes and chairges procured also mainteinance, sufficient in some resonabill forte, for the Fatheris of the Church, and haif directed ordour to be takin for the Plantatioun of all churches voyde; as lykwyis, in so far as the Ecclesiastick iurisdiction by seculare personis wes enroached vpoun, We haif putt also remeid thereto: So as We did fullye hoipe, that befor this tyme, the Church therevpoun, apprehending and persaiuing of errouris past, in suffering that anarchie amonges thame to keip so long continuance, shuld haif resolved and concluded, and therewith haif become suitouris and sollicitouris vnto Ws, for establisshing of that Governament and rewell, whiche is most fitting and allowed of in former tymes in the primitive Church: so that thinges shuld not be left still in vncertaintye, by resson of the diuision and distractioun of myndes among your selfis, by whiche, to your awne knowledge, bothe the common enemye hath encreasit, and sin and wickednes remayneth unpunished. Bot whither the defaulte be in the Fatheris of the Church, there vnwillingnes, or vnworthienes, to do and performe what in dewtye belongeth vnto thame; or in the factious singularite of otheris of the meaner ranke. (who doe perhappis presume of there greitter credite by keeping thinges in a confusion;) and We being not fullye acquaynted with the trew cans, and yit in Our dewtye to Our God, as being his Leutennant heir, holding Our selfis iustlye bounde not to suffer this sorte of lingering, in a mater of suche moment, haif therevpoun thought expedient to call this present Assemblye, not so muche for necessite as that any thing is to be moved, whervnto your consent is much requisite, bot that Our trew affection to Godis glorie, and advancement thereof, and to the peace and weill of the Church, being declaired and maniested, you may trye the more inexcusable, for not vrgeing that goode to the Church, whiche We do intend for it without requyreing your consentis, if We find a slow concurrence on your parte: And yit hoiping that your forwardnes will remove all opinioun, whiche may be conceaved ather of your vnwillingnes.

or opposition to Our so godlye intentionis: and having referred the particular imparteing of Our furder pleasour and mynde heirin to Our right trustye and right welbeloued Couंसing and Counsellour the Erle of Dombur, and the right reverend Father Our right trustye Counsellour the Archbifhops of St Andros, (both of whome We haif directed as Our Commiffioners to this present Affemblye, and whome We will you to credite and truste,) and intending vpon there reportis to tak speciall notice of every ones affection and forwardnes in this service, and therevpon to acknowledge and remember thame heirafter, as any fitt occasion for there goode fall occurre: We comitt you and your present action, with the goode success of the busynes, to Godis goode guyding: and bids all of you right hartlye fairweill. From Our Courte at Thetforde, the eight of May 1610.

To the Right Reverend Fatheris in God,
 Our right trustie and welbeloued, and
 to Our right trustye and welbeloued
 couंसingis, counsellours, and otheris, Our
 trustye and welbeloued the Prelattis,
 Noblemen, and otheris Our loving subjectis
 alweill Ministrie as Lawitye, presentlye
 mett and conveyned in this Affemblye.

CLI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
 CHIRNESYDE.

Grace be multiplied unto you.

BELLOVED BRETHREN,

After my heartie commendations in the Lord, I have received a Letter from the Kings Majestie anent the direction of Commiffioners to the approaching Generall Affembly. And to the effect ye may understand my Commiffion to you for that effect, and the King's Majesties pleasure, I thought good, as having credit of his Majestie in these matters, to flow to your Moderator the authentick letter that has

proceeded from his Majesty's hand, and to send to you the note of the persons, whom his Majesty has thought fittest for that work. This I beseech you, since our Presbyteries in Fife, and, as I hear, the Presbytrie of Edinburgh hath agreed to the King's desire, that ye will not fail to send a free voluntary Commission with these Brethren, who have also received their several Missives from the King's Majesty, that ye seem not to be singular, and refractorie to reasonable petitions. I hope, that this my counsel shall be well accepted of you: and since suddane and willfull conclusions haue wrought such bitter effects, I hope, ye will not provoke the King's Majesty to wrath, without any necessary occasion. Thus I beseech God to bless you all with the spirit of truth and love to the end.

Your loving and assured brother,

SANCT ANDREWS.

Edinburgh, the 28 of May 1610.

To our Trustie and weil beloved the Moderator
and Brethren of the Presbyterie of Chirnside.

CLII.—THE BISHOP OF GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOWERAN :

May it pleis your Maieftie. For helpe of my Bischopric, so dilapidat by the deid of wuqulull Bischope Gordoun,¹ that it can nocht be ane sufficient or honest mentinance to any of that Estait, your Henes hathe bein gratiuflic pleist to dispone to me the Ablacie of Glenluice. Your Majesty's gift now being past the Gryt Seall, and I being to fuit

¹ Bishop Alexander Gordon, second son of John Master of Huntley, by Jane, natural daughter of James the Fourth, was successively Bishop of the Isles (1553—1558) and of Galloway (1558—1560.) He joined the Reformers in 1560, and retained his titles and the temporalities of his benefice, but was prohibited by the Assembly from exercising any ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Before his death, in 1576, he made a resignation of his benefice in favour of his son, John Gordon, who was then in France, pursuing his studies.

for lettres conforme wpon my gift, I find your Henes letter alledgit in my contrar, willing my Lord Cancellar to contenow that proces, and fuller no thing be done that nicht preiudge Doct̄or Gordoun,¹ to futehe tyme as your Maiefties wil and plefor was knawin, and sum middis takine be your Henes betwixt the Doctor and me. At the hering, Sir, of this letter, I was not only willing that proces should cease, to futehe tyme your Henes acquaintit my Lord Cancellar with your Maiefties farther plefor, bot also, if it war your Henes will, simpille to renunce my entres and clame to that lewing; for all that I inioy is not only your Maiefties frie gift, bot in my prefarment also at the first, I, by any of our Estait, haid experience of your Henes ondefarwit favor. Only this, Sir, of all wthar helpis for that Bifchoprie, this is most conuenient and proper, and if so it pleis your Maieftie. without wrang done to any persone, your Henes may establishe this helpe; bot this I remit simpille to your Maieftie, wyfer in it than I can be. I wil humble intreat your Maieftie to pardone me in ane thing, quhilk is to cleir my self of sum inputationis and alledgit onhonest dealing wpon my pairt be Doctor Gordoun to your Henes. If his informatione be trewth, than lat me loife, and that iustlie, your Majesties favor, quhilk ane thowfand tymis I prefar to any commoditie warldlie; bot honest men wil not alledge in men thair absence quhat thay ar nocht habil to qualesie, and can nocht in thair presence affirme, bay outrewthe to mowe your Henes against any your Majesties affectionat serwitouris, quha preferis your Henes wil to thair awin lyfe. Quhat this meritis your Maieftie better knawis than I. If so it pleis your Henes, in regard now of my place in your Maiefties service, I wis the Doctor should keipe hime within termis of law, speciale in his letteris to the Lordis of Sessione; always quhair the questione is of or for gaine, hardlie can sum doe this, bot if it haid nocht beine to haif eschewit your Henes iust offence, esalie I could haif amendit this. Thus, excusing my presumptione in the opening of my greif to your

¹ Dr John Gordon was the son of the Bishop of Galloway, who is mentioned at the beginning of this letter. He is best known as Dean of Salisbury; See the following letter, No. CLIV. He became titular Abbot of Glenluce (Vallis Crucis) in Galloway, on the death of his brother Lawrence, in whose favour that Abbaey had been erected into a temporality in 1602.

Sacred Maieftie, attending the declaratione of your Henes wil quhat I fal doe in this particular, I pray God frome my hairt, blifs your Maieftie with ane lang and prosperus reigne, in healthe, peace, and walthe, all your Henes enemeis being maid as duft onder your Maiefties feit.

Your Henes moft humble ferwitor and hairtly orator,

B. GALLOWAY.

Edinburche, the 1 of June 1610.

To my moft gratius and dreid Soweran,
the King his moft excellent Majeftie.

CLIII.—THE BISHOP OF THE ISLES, AND OTHER MINISTERS, TO
KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE :

Giff we had words to expresse the heartie and humbill affectione of oure heartis towards your Majeftie, we fould think ourfelves happie, at leift in this, that your Hienes wold then underftand our thankfull acknowledgement of your Majesties favours, and the earnest defyre we have to ferve your Hienes after our meine possibilitis in all that ether naturall subjectionne or our particuler calling doeth requyre ; Quhairunto many respects oblige us, but cheiftlie your Majesties love and watchfull care over the estate of this Church, which begins in some fort to feill the harm of her awin differences, and ere it be long shall, by your Hienes wife and gracious procurement, enjoy (our hope is great) ane happie peace and quyetnes. Quhat ordour, quhat comely and calme proceeding, hes bein in this Synod, we remit to your Majesties Commiffioner his relation. This farre only, Sir, of ourfelfs. We have not deceived your Hienefs expectatioun, and to the end of our lyffis, be His grace, shall ever be find afore uthers in obedience, bothe by word and example. Your Majesties designe being (as it is) for policie and gude ordour in the Kirk, he is miserable and foolische that withstands.

We find the fruits of it, and cannot forbear to praise God for him whom your Majesty has trusted with this service amongst us.¹ Others, we trust, by our experience, shall lay aside all scrupulous fears, and be drawn to the willing obedience of your Highnesses commandments. Some particulars we have committed to the care of the Right Reverend our Moderatour,² namely, anent the Abbot of New Abbey³ his returne, and the libertie that other Papists begin to tak in this Kingdome, the inconvenient of the erections and patronages daylie dispoit to the wrak of your Majesties Crowne and Kirk, and ane remedy for thir Advocations, these are now so frequently granted, not only in the cases we formerlie mentit, but in the admillion of Ministers to Kirks, and everie uther poynt of Discipline. In all the which we humble beseech your Majesty, give credite to his Lordship from us, after the humble representation of our service, with our continuall prayers for your Highnesses long and prosperous reigne. We cease.

Your Majesties most humble subjectis,

MR ROBERT SCOTT.	PATRICK SHARPE.	AN. ISLES.
MR ALEX ^r . THOMESONE.	MR JHONE BEL,	Min ^r J. HAY, Raifrow.
MR JOHNE BLAKBURN,	at Glasgou.	MR JOHNN BELL,
Cardrofs.	MR JAMES HAMILTON.	Min ^r at Cadder.

To his most Sacred Majesty.

CLIV.—DR JOHN GORDON, DEAN OF SALISBURY, TO KING JAMES.

TO THE KING HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTIE.

Please your Gracious Majesty: That John Sharpe, M^r of Artes, hath bene these five yeares, in this countrys, a preaching Minister, wherein he hath behaved himselfe very well, and is now School M^r in

¹ The Earl of Dunbar, his Majesty's Commissioner. ² Archbishop Spottiswood.

Gilbert Brown, Abbot of New Abbey, or Sweet Heart (Duke's Cordis), near Dumfries, was liberated from his confinement, in 1608. He afterwards left Scotland, and died at Paris, 11th May 1612.

our Clofe of Salifbery, where alfo he doeth preach: And if your Majestie be remembred, he did presente an Oration and some verses vnto your Maieftie, the last time your Maieftie was at Salifbery,¹ who hath no hope of preferment, vules yt be by your princelye fauor and gracious helpe. And becaus one of the Prebendes there would bestow his daughter on him, if your Maieftie would be pleased to give him the vacation of his prebende: So humblye beseeching your Maieftie to further such a good worcke, I pray God to bleffe your Maieftie with all maner of blessings, spirituall and temporall.

Your Gratiouse Maiefties most humble, obedient,
and faithfull seruant,

Jo. GORDON, Dec. Sarum.²

To the Kinges most Excellent Maieftie.

CLV.—THE RECTOR, PROVOST, AND MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE :

Thair is ane priue misliue indircēdie purchaft of your Maieftie repugnant to our ancient Fundatioun, in fauoris of ane priue persone, Maister James Schevez, to ressiue him Regent in our Colleage of Sanct-faluator, in the place of ane Maister William Wedderburne, as vacand be his provisioun to ane Kirk, or quhen it fall happin to vaik.³ Quhair-

¹ This letter has no date. King James visited Salisbury on several occasions between 1603 and 1615, but no accounts of his "progress" have been preserved.

² John Gordon (see note 1, page 252), of Baliol College, Oxford, was created D.D. 13th August 1605, "because he was to dispute before the King his kinsman."—(Wood's *Fasti Oxon.* by Bliss, vol. i. p. 311.) During his long residence in France, he was one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to Charles IX., Henry III. and IV.; and when fifty-eight years of age, the King called him to England, and to the ministry. He was promoted to the Deanery of Salisbury in 1603-4, and was the author of various works, chiefly addressed to King James.—(Nichols's *Progresses of King James*, vol. i. p. 511.) He died 3d September 1619, Ætat. 75, and was buried in the Cathedral.—(Le Neve's *Fasti Anglicani*, p. 264.)

³ As one of the Ministers of Dundee: See Nos. CXLVIII and CLXI.

vpoun the purchaſer of this letter, and his moyaneris, hes procurit ane Act of Counfall in his fauoris indirec̄tie by our knowlege, we nevir being hard nor callit, ordaining letters to be direct̄ vpoun your Maieſties miſſive letter, charging ws, the Rector, Proceſt, and Maifteris of the Collegis and Vniuerſitie, to admit him thairto within ſex dayis, vnder the pane of rebellium, and thairvpoun letters ar direct̄, and we chargit: Quhilk forme is verie vncouth and ſtrange to ws, nevir being hard nor accuſtumat of beſoir, tending altogither to the everting of our Fundationes, quhilk we haue hithertils inuolablie obſeruit in elec̄tioun of our Maifteris, and doubts not your Maieſtie, of your royall and princelie clemencie, is evir myndit to mantayn the ſamyn for the honour and advancement of our ſtudeis and guid letters. And ſeing our ancient lovabill Fundationes and Privilegis ſtandis not lauchfullie tane away, and that we haue evir bein reddie and ar yit reddie to ſerve your Maieſtie, in all dwtie and humilitie, we maift humlie intreat your Maieſtie to allow of our ancient Fundationes concerning the elec̄tioun of our Maifteris, and fulfill the ſamyn to be obſeruit be ws; and to that effect̄ to direct̄ your Maieſteis letters to your Maieſteis Secreit Counfall heir, and to ws, for our warrand to obſerve our ancient Fundationes and privilegis thairof in the elec̄tioun of our Maifteris, and that with ſua guidlie diligence as we incur na damage thairanent in the mean tyme. Thus maift humlie kiſſing your Maieſteis moift ſacred hands, wiſſed evir your Maieſteis maift happie and proſperous reigne, with ane long and bliſſed lyf, and eternall felicitie.

Your Maieſteis moſt humill and obedient
ſubicctis and daylie oratoris,

Sanctandrois, this
22 Auguſt [1610].

M. PATRIK MALVILE.
MR WILLIAM VEDDERBURN.
MR GEORGE MARTINE.
MR JA. GLEG.

MR JAMES MARTINE, Rector.
MR ROBERT WILKIE.
M. ROBERT HOVYE.
MR DAVID MONYPELLIE.
MR JHONE JONSTON.

To the King his moſt Excellent Maieſtie.

CLVI.—DAME MARGARET SETOUN, LADY PAISLEY, TO THE
QUEEN'S MAJESTY.

MAIE IT PLEASE YOUR MOST GRACIOUS MAIESTIE :

These 4 yeares by past I haue bene subiect to a vellement payne, aryng of difillations and humors in my head, with a continual tuitheach breading me sic torment, as scarce haue I half an hours releas be nyght nor be day, a thing too veel knovin to as many as knovis me and hants my company; and notwithstanding, to agrauate my pane, I am called and fumoned by the Churche to compeir, and attend on the Presbiteries and vther dyetts, upon what respects I knou not, for I nevir haue bene found repyning nor difobedient to the least of his Maieities lauis. In respect of my heany and greuous diseas, it is impossible to me at this tyme to keip these dyetts, vherfore I most humbly beseech your Hignes to be a meanis at the King's Maieities hands that he vilbe graciouffie pleased to vret a letter to the Churche and Presbiterie of Air, that during the tyme of my diseafe they do not proceed in aney censure agayns me: for hou sone my health shal permit, I shal, Godwilling, satisfie them with al reason. I hop his Maieitie, who hath alwayes had a gracious regarde to me and myne, vil not think me vnuorthie of this fauor in this my extremitie of siknes. Thus craning pardon for my importunitie, I tak my leane in al humilitie, and prayes the Eternal to preferue your Maieitie, as my bound duetie is euer continuing.

Your Sacred Maieities most humble and
obedient subiect and seruant,

MARGARET SETOUN.¹

Monkton, 1 September [1610].

To the Queenis most Excellent Maieitie.

¹ Margaret, only daughter of George sixth Earl of Setoun, and wife of Lord Claud Hamilton, Commendator of Paisley, third son of James Duke of Chattelherault. Their eldest son, James Hamilton, during his Father's life, was raised to the Peerage, in 1603, as Baron, and three years later as Earl of Abercorn.

CLVII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOUVERAIN,

May it please your most Excellent Majestie: The berar heirof, Mr David Lyndefay, Person of Lastalrig, hauing laithie shawne him self to me verrie willing and fordward in advancing your Majesties service, and being one of the Ministers of my Dyocie; I could not bot geving testimonye to the veritie, recommend him to your Majesties wyfe consideratione, since, particularly during my late abode in Edinburgh, he kythed his great desyre of the aduancement of our Estait, and earnestnes against the opponents, if ony had bene; Quhairfor I am bold to humble besek your most Gracious Majestie to favorablie inelyne your Majesties care to his just desyres, to the effect he may be animated to profecute his gude beginnings, to your Majesties great contentment, and furtherance of me, according to his power, in your Majesties service, for I assure your Majestie he is populair both in Leith and Edinburgh. Thus I pray the Almighty to continowe his blessings, spirituall and temporall, vpon your Majesties sacred persone and state, to His glorie, and weill of your Majesties loving and obedient subjects.

Your Majesties humble seruitour,

SANCTANDROIS.

From the Kirk of Edzel,
12 September 1610.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CLVIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUVERAIN,

May it please your most Excellent Maiestie: Quhairas my Sone hath bene a student in Diuinitie at Cambridge this yeir, and he reason

of the plague thair hes bene debarred for a space thairfra, I have taken boldnes to fend him back, that if the feiknes continowe in Cambridge he may goe towards Oxford.¹ I hope your Maieftie fall within few yeirs find him ane weil inclyned and qualified fervand to your Maieftie: quhairfor, my dear Soumerain, please your Maieftie to honour him with ane kiffe of your Majesties facred hand, and refave fra him some Memoires² quhich I am bold to prefente to your Maieftie tuiching your Maiefties service. I hope your Maieftie will perva the same, quhen your Maieftie fall think fittest, and fend back your Maiefties gude pleafour as and quhen best fall please your Maieftie. Thus I besek God to bleffe your Maieftie with all peace and prosperitie for ever.

Your Maiefties most humble fervand and deuoted oratour,

SANCTANDROIS.

Sanctandros, 17 Octob. 1610.

To the King his most Excellent Maieftie.

CLIX.

MEMOIRES TO THE KING HIS SACRED MAIESTIE.

1. SINCE it hath pleased your Maieftie to appoint not oulie for the Bischops, bot also the remanent Cleargie, ane habite distinguisht from that of wthers Effaits, I am to regrait that your Maieftie is not

¹ Alexander Gladstanes completed his course of philosophy in St Salvator's College, St Andrews, and obtained the degree of A. M. in July 1608. His name does not occur in the *Fasti Oxonienses*, and it is not improbable he may have returned to Cambridge to prosecute his theological studies. Through his father's influence he became Archdeacon and one of the Ministers of St Andrews. He afterwards obtained the degree of D.D. At the Glasgow Assembly, in 1638, Dr Gladstanes was one of the Episcopalian Ministers who were formally deposed: having previously been convicted of notorious drunkenness and profanity.—(Baillie's Letters and Journals, vol. i. pp. 149, 151.) He died in 1641.

² See the following No., CLIX.

obeyed, and therfor to requirit your Maiestie to direct me to tak ordour thairanent both with Bischops, of quhome some neuer take the habite, bot goe on the verie direct of Edinburgh as laicks, and with the rest of the Ministers of the kingdome, quhois gownes I think fould in fecheap be lyke ours, except the stuff, face, and tippet. So please your Maiestie, be special, and I wilbe answerable for obedience of the samin.

2. Capitaine Thomas Tyrie hath bene verrie instant with me to have conference for his resolutione in religion. I directed him to some learned and weiladvysed Ministers, quho have reported to me that he seemis rather to intend delay than aefald resolutione. So may it please your Maiestie to command me, be your Maiesties warrand in writ, to appoint to him ane day for his final resolutione, or than his pairting off the cuntrey, and withall to giue ordour and directione to your Hienes Privie Counsil to this effect.

3. Sir Jhone Ogilvie hes given his Supplicatione once or twyfe to your Maiesties His Commissione for his refaving in the bosfome of the Kirk, quhich we ever have delayed, in the meantyme directing some Ministers to conferre with him, to quhome he hath given reasonable satisfaccione; and litle he hath given ane humble Supplicatione to me and the Dyocesian Synode of that pairt of my Dyocie benorth Taye, holden in Abirbrothok the last Tuesday of September (the frequencie and honorable vsage quhairof I wishe that wthers fould report, and not I, for I think the lyk hes not bene seene sen the Relligione come in Scotland). Bot thair it was enacted be my directione, that nothing fould be done concerning him, quhil first your Maiesties gracious pleasour wer knowne. Thair wes some dealing for his compositione and satisfaccione to your Maiesties Thesaurer. I will humble besek your Maiestie, since to my knowlege the gentleman is weilaffected to live as ane peaceable subject, and to conforme himself both in religion and manners to your Maiesties lawes, that your Maiestie will give ordour and royal directione how he salbe vsed; that my simplicitie and zeale to refave penitent sinners mak me not to displeas your Maiestie, quhome to please, next God, is my felicitie, not of fear, but for loue and conscience; and if your Maiestie wilbe enclined to referre this whole matter to me, I wilbe answerable ather for ane gude subject of him, or

than for taking ordour exemplairlie with him to your Maiefties contentement.

4. The Laird of Edzel younger hath given in to me and the foresaid Synode ane most humble supplicatione for accepting of his repentance and relaxing him fra the sentence of excommunicatione; bot that matter also is referred to your Maiefties gracious pleafour, for since heir, prayfed be God, *Ecclesia et Respublica est eadem numero*; quhair I haue power, none falbe *membrum Ecclesie* quha is not *membrum Reipublice*, and your Maiefties acknowledged subiect. Yet thus I presumed that two should be directed to the Earle of Craufurd, and two to the Laird of Edzel, for mediatione, if it shal please your Maieftie to spair his lyfe, quhich is in your Maiefties reuerence, for that vnhappy slaughter.

5. The Dyoecian Synode of Fyfe, and remanent Kirks of my Dyoecie betuix Tay and Forth, hath bene holden heir in your Maiefties citie, quhair ther wes some oppositione maid in the beginning be Mr Jhone Malcolme, and some of the auld Melvinian bruide¹ that remains heir: bot I repressed them be authoritie and reason, to the great contentment of all your Maiefties gude and faythfull subiects. that wer present in great number; sua, that thereafter I keiped that Assemblie with great peace and obedience and reuerence to me. so restis onlie the Synode of my Dyoecie befouth Forth, quhich I haue indicted in Hadingtoun vpon the first day of November.²

6. At the foresaid Synode of Fyfe, ane supplicatione wes given in be Maister James Meluil his parochiners, creaving of the Synode and me, that we should interpone our supplicatione to your Maieftie for his restitutione to his place.³ As for me, I will not advyse your Maieftie anie

¹ The meeting was held at St Andrews on the 9th of October 1610. Calderwood has preserved an account of the proceedings of that Synod, and the opposition made by John Malcolm, Minister of Perth, and some other Ministers, which excited the wrath of the Archbishop.

² The Archbishop's letter, dated the 3d October 1610, to the Presbytery of Haddington, appointing the Diocesan Synod to convene in their town on the 1st of November, is inserted in Calderwood's History, vol. vii. p. 124.

³ Melvill was Minister of Kilbrenny. After the Hampton Conference, in September 1606, he was not allowed to return to Scotland, but was confined to the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He died on the 19th January 1614.

thing in that matter, becaus I know not quhat is the man his humour as yet; but rather wishe that yer [ere] onie of such men got libertie, our turnes take fetling a quhyle: Always I referre this to your Maiesties vncomparable wisdome.

7. I hope your Maiestie will confidder, that as your Maiestie hes given the His Commiffione to your Maiesties two Archibishops, in all matters of schander, so in special the adulterers fall vnder the compas thairof; and we being in the rowme quhairin your Maiestie hes placed vs, may be als aufwerable for these penulties that ar exacted of them as onie vther, swa ather fall we delyver the famin to my Lord Thesaurer, or to the Checker, as your Maiestie fall appoint. I haue seene the ordour taking with such given to ane number of seoffers in the cuntrey, quho never gaue onie accompts to your Maiesties Thesaurer nor Checker thairof, and if it end in ane monopole, your Maiestie will never reape commoditie of the famin.¹

17th October 1610.

CLX.—THE BISHOP OF DUNKELD TO KING JAMES.

MOIST GRATIOUS SOVERANE,

Pleis your Majestie, at the Visitatione of the Kirk of Dolor, ane kirk within my Dioecie. I find it is ane kirk of Sanctcolme, and is set in pensuone to Johne Steill, the rentis quhairof ar maidt rigorousslie yptakin be him; quha be na meanis will grant to give ony part thairof to the Preachear of Godis word, swa that he is compellit to leave the forsaid Kirk, and the people fall fall in ignorance, throu wanting of the preaching of Godis word, except your Majestie put remeid thairto: Albeit of all equitie the pastour of the said Kirk fould be susteinit vponne the fruitis of the said Kirk, it being moill certane that the said Kirk, in the

¹ [*Indorsed*].—"GLAIDSTANES, B. of St Andrews. Memoires to his Maiestie, aient Ogilvy, Tyrie, and Edzell, and of his Dioecesan Synodes: and ane desyr to have liberty to the His Commiffione to sit vpon Adulterers, and to intromett with their penultyes."

tyme of the affumptioun of the Thriddis, was omittit, and now, in the Erectioun of the Abbacie of Sanctcolme, it is lykwyis omittit, quhilk can be na bettir way helpit then be making speciall Affumptioun of the Thridis of the said benefice: Thairfoire, it may pleis youre gracious Majestie to give commiffioun to the Archbifchoppis of St Androis, Glasgow, and Bifchoppis of Dunkelden, Briehen, Orknay, and Rois, my Lord Prefident, Sir Johnne Arnot, Collector Depute, or ony foure of thame, to call before thame at Edinburgh, the Lord Sanctcolme, and Johnne Steill, and to affume ane juft third of the said Kirk, conforme to the avail thair of. Swa taking my leif, I will befeak the great God to blifs youre Majesties perfone and government with long lyiff, and in his fauoure to end.

Your Majesteis most humble subjeēt and orator,

DUNKELD.

Edinburgh, the xxvi of Februar 1611.

To his Maiestie.

CLXI—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS AND THE BISHOP OF
BRECHIN TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIUS SOVERANE,

May it pleis your most Excellent Maiestie: Quhairas the Brughe of Dundie is defyrus to heve on Mr William Wedderburne to be plantit as on of thair pastoris, thatt place being ane great Borrow-towne, quhilk can nott be plantit without your Maiesteis royell consent, we heve beine cairfull to try the qualitiis and dispositione of the said Mr William, and heffe fund him of a paceabill inclinatione, and heve teane of him hand and furtie, that first he fall obey all the Actis of the leat Generall Assembliis; nixt, he fall nott meddill in doctrine nor conference with the controvertit headis of Discipline; and, thirdly, that he fall conforme him self vnto quhatsumever ordour of Church government

quhich your Maiestie and the Kirk fall fett dome. Vpon the quhich we tak boldnes to recommend him to your Maiestie, that your Maiestie vold testifie your royell consent be your Maiesties letter, directit to vs. Thus referring to your Maiesties gratius plefour, ve befeik God to blis your Maiestie for ever.

Your Maiesties most humble seruantis,

Edinburgh, the 2 of Marche 1611.

SANCTANDROIS.

M. A. BRECHIN.¹

To the Kinge his most Excellent Maiestie.

CLXII.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

IT MAY PLEASE YOUR MOST EXCELLENT AND GRATIOUS MAIESTY :

The report quhilk hathe cum to me of sum informatioun made to your Maicly off the dilapidatioun off the Bischoprik of Murraye, hathe so mowit me, that I culd do no les then offer my selff to a tryell : quhilk I am forcit to mak humill fwit for, at your Maiesties handis, be any of your Hienes Counsell to quhom your Maiestie will committ the samin, except Sir Alexander Haye, and these off his course, quho for sum particuler hathe vniustlye made your Maiestie to think of these maters. I am maist desyrons that all my deedes and karcage be putt vnder tryell fence my beginning, and quhat I hawe done towards your Maiesties service, and obedience in the cuntrey quhair I dwell : so fall your Maiestie hawe the trewth off all my doings brocht to licht, lykvyis the particuler fra quhilk this mater hathe procedit discovered. Thus, trusting to your Maiesties favorable consideratioun of my maist humill fwit, and expecting your Maiesties directioun in that mater, I befeik the greit Jehovah to maintein your Maiesties present estate in happy conditioun

¹ [*Luborsal*].—"Bishops of St Andros and Brechin to his Maiestie for Mr Wm. Wetherburne to be Minister at Dundy, because he is conforme. Mart. 2. 1611."

to continew the famin with daylie increſce off all flouriſhing proſperity, and in the end to crown your excellent Maieſtye with that ewirlaſting crowne and kyngdome.

Your Maieſties moiſt humill and ever obedient ſervitour,

Edinbrugh, the levint
off Marche 1611.

A. B. OFF MURRAYE.¹

To his moſt excellent and moſt gratioſus Maieſtye.

CLXIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERANE,

Maye it pleis your moſt Excellent Maieſtie: Quhairas delatioun was maid to me be the Biſhop of Murraye, that one Maſter Johne Straitoun, Miniſter at Forres, hed ſpokin verie contumeliouſlye aganis the Aſſemblye of Glaſgow and Epiſcopall juridiſcioun, publicklye in exerciſe, in the Biſchopps owne audience, I have cawſed eite him beſoir your Maieſties Heich Commiſſioun. The day of his comperance was Thurisday laſt, the fourteint of this inſtant; at whiche tyme, efter tryell, we have found him wordie of puniſchment, and thairfoir have ſilenced him, and committed him to waird in your Maieſties Caſtell of Innerneſs, till your Maieſties further pleaſour be knowne. In this mater, I hed the concurrence and advyce of the Lord Prefident, quho accompanys me in your Maieſties ſervice verie lovinglye and fordwardlye.

This Fryddaye, the fyftein of this inſtant, the confeſſatioun of the Biſhop of Murraye was ſolemnized verie honorable, and countenanced be the ſaid Lord Prefident and many vther Lordis of Secreit Confeſſell, quhom he drew thither for authorizing that ſolemnitie. Befoir this ordour came, it wes odious: bot in the vſage thairof all the heareris thocht it tollerabill, and now the beholderis and auditouris ar moved to praife and extoll it as

¹ This letter is indorſed, apparently by Sir Alexander Hay, "B. Murray, to the King, concerning me."

a holye, wyfe, and grave pollicie. This nixt Twyffday holdis my Dioce-
fiane Synode befouth Forthe, in Edinburgh; and vpon the fecond of
Aprile whiche is the Senyie day appointit be your Maieftye, in Sanctan-
drois, the Synode benorth the fame; from the whiche I go to proceed in
my vilitatioun quhair I left, whiche wes in the Carls about Perth. For
the removed pairtis in the Northe, I have difpatched them in this laft
Sommer with verie gude effect, I praife God. Thus as becomes me, *Reddo
rationem villicationis mee*. Oure other effairis I refer to the fufficiencie
of my Lordis of Glasgou and Orknaye, the eftablifching of quhois Bif-
choprick (it being one of my province) I humblic recomend to your
Maiefties princelie cair and confideratioun. Thus I befeik God blefs
your Maiefties royall perfoun and government with the increafe of grace,
profperitie, and honour for ever.

I maist humblic and earnestlic befeikis
your Maieftie to giue thankis to the honest
and kynd Secretarie¹ for his greit love and
kindnes to me and all the Bischoppis my
brethrein.

Your Maiefties moft humble fubiect and fervant,

SANCTANDROIS.

Edinburgh, 16 Martii 1611.

CLXIV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

May it pleis your moft Excellent Maieftie, quhair as I vnder-
ftoode be this honorabill gentleman and your Maiefties Senatour, my
Lord Forreftiers-Scatt,² off his purpois to vifit your Maieftie off ueer

¹ Sir Alexander Hay of Newton and Whitburgh, succeeded Lord Balmerinoch, as Secre-
tary, in 1608; and exchanged the office for that of Clerk-Register, with Sir Thomas
Hamilton, in July 1612.

² Mr Alexander Hay of Fosterseat was admitted an Ordinary Lord of Session, 25th
February 1604. He resigned his seat on the bench, in 1629.

affection and love to your Maiesties sacred person: finding such a sympathy with my owne trew and loving disposition toward your Maiestie, I have taken boldnes even to report the same thing, quhilk I have fund, and now have wrettin, and to be importune for such I need nocht, quho know I have such a Maister, that lykis rather sinceritie and love with imperfectiounis, then counterfaite service with greit skill: The Lord preserve your Maiestie for ever. I rest,

Your Maiesties most humble subiect and fervand,

SANCTANDROIS.

Edinburgh, 21 Martij 1611.

To my most Gracious Souerane,
The King his most excellent Maiestie.

CLXV.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it pleis your most gracious Majeste: My Lord Cancellar, efter his returning, did all diligene, and left no meanis vnassayed to move the Earll of Orney to perfect the contract and defects therof. The terror of Dumbartan did so affray him, that he condiscended very muche aganst his will and ordinaire disposition to fill vp the blank concerning the quantite of the Thriddis agreed vpon, bot as for landis whiche fould be designed and assigned to me for payment of those Thriddis, he hathe not so many vndisposed to Sir Jhone Arnot as may pay me. So it may pleis your Majeste to confidder that I fall have nothing bot ane zeirly plea for those Thriddis; and for my self I can find no way of payment of him who hes no thing almost left for him self, quherby, apperandly, bothe my mantenanc and seruic must fail. I fall vse all ordinarie means to possesse my self in payment, and that I may attene the mor easile therto, I will, as of befor, most humble entreat your Sacred Majeste that he may be keeped heer or transported to Dumbartan; that all his gouernment by his deputies, shireffis and

bailzeis, may be discharged vnder heest panis; and that your Majeste will agane authorize our Commissions alreddie granted, and giue new direccion to the Counsell to command vs to go to Orenay and execut the sam, and report agane our diligene and the trew estait of those parts to your Majeste. Sir, the Earll is put, I know not how nor by whose credit, in assured houp of your Majesties fauour, and of his full libertie, and returning to Orenay, and that vpon this litill poynt of obedienc to your Majeste and satisfacion to me. Bot your Majeste wilbe pleased to consider his naturall disposition, his former practises, his necessitie, who cannot vphold his estait now without some wrongs done, ather to Sir Jhone Arnot and me, or ellis to the poor oppressed people.

I know your Majeste is not vnmyndful of the many and great complaintis quherwith your Majeste hes beene troubled befor, and I assur my self that your Majeste wilbe mor cairfull to see justice and peace establisht euen in those remotest partis of this kingdome then to satisfie the Earll, or ony his fauorits desyris for his libertie and repossesion, except it be vpon suche fuisse and caution as may mak good for all dangers, trubill, and looses whiche may happily fall out. Sir, I wreit not so as presuming to giue counsell to your most gracious Majeste, whome God hes instructed and adorned therwith most abundantly; nather do I it of any partiall or sinister affection to profit my self or preiudg him, bot in all humilite, and with most respectiue submission, to enforme your Majeste of the treuth, whiche being discharged by me as ane speciall dewtie whiche I ow to your Highnes, I must humble referr all to your Majesties great wisdom and good pleasur. So crauing your Majesties pardon, and kissing your hands, I beseech Almighty God to guard your royall person, to blisse yow with long yllle and happie gouernment, and aternall glorie.

Your Majesties most humble and deuoted seruant,

Edinb. 2 Maij 1611.

J.A. B. OF ORCADS.¹

To the King his most excellent and sacred Majeste.

¹ [*Indorsed*].—"Law, B. Orkney to the King, desyring the Erle of Orkney to be detained in ward, and vssed roughly, that he may be possessed of the Bishoprick. 2 May 1611."

CLXVI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAINE,

Maye it pleis your most excellent Maieftie: According to your Maiefties royall directioun, I affemblit the hoill Miniſteris of my Dyocie benorth Forth to Die, in the citie of Sanctandros, vpon the first day of the Senzie, and continowed that weik according to the auncient custome: quhair I fand nothing bot obedience and conformitie in all, and did all thingis with greit peace and contentment, with such corage and authoritie in such confluence of Miniſteris, as I think it wes inferiour to no Generall Affemblic that hes bein in this kingdome, quhair your Maieftie wes not present. Thair Sir Johne Ogilvie his absolotioun wes concludit, becaws he had not only fatified be oath and subſcriptioun the Miniſtrie, bot also your Maiefties Thesawrer, and wes relaxed fra the horne efter payment of his composition; according quhairto I reſſaved him in the bofome of the Kirk, in the kirk of Sanctandros, the day of our communion, swa that thairefter he communicated with ws. Captane Tyrie his excommunication ordenit to be denuncit of new, for that he deludis the Kirk, prorogattis tyme of his resolutionn, and is ane skandale to the quhoill kingdome, quho also thinkis that his familiar vſage with the Erle of Home hinderis his Lordſchipis resolutionn; and I wes defyred to intreat your Maieftie most humble, that your Maieftie giwe commandement to the Counfall, that aither he may be diſpatched the countrey, or ellis conforme him selff to the trew Religioun, quhairanent I expect your Maiefties royall directioun. *I have directed my sone-in-law, the Rector of the Vniuersitie,¹ to goe forward in teaching the Canoun Law. as ane*

¹ Mr Peter Bruce: He held the office of Principal of St Leonard's College, St Andrews, from 1611 to 1630. A letter from the Archbishop of St Andrews to the King in his favour will be found under the date 23d September 1613. The words here printed in italics are underlined in the original. In July 1616, Bruce was one of eight who were "inaugurate Doctors at St Andrews."—(Calderwood's Hist., vol. vii, p. 222.) In the following year, on the King's visit to St Andrews, "Doctor Bruce," as Rector, delivered a Latin oration in the name of the University.—(Adamson's Muses Welcome, &c., Edinb. 1618, folio, p. 169.)

reddie way to bring out the Presbyterian Discipline fra the heartis of the young ones, and to acquaint even the oldest with the auncient Church Government, quhairof thaj ar ignorant; and the Vniuersitie hes aggried thairto. This service is gratuitlye done be the gentilman. Quhen occasion seruis, and efter tryell of his valour, learning, and wifdome, I hony your Maieftie will have fimm regaird of him, and the rather for my caws. As for the effairis Southward, concerning my refidence in Edinburgh, quhilk your Maieftie commandis, I have keipit the fame precyflie, and have refidett thair thir two yeiris past, induring the tyme of the fitting of the Sessioun, to my greit and exorbitant expensis. Allwayes I fall never irk to bestow this body, and the moyen quhilk I have reffaved of your Maieftie, in your Maiefties service. As concerning my preaching, and of otheris in the Kirk of Edinburgh, I fall so do that your Maieftie fall gaine your people's hearts be my forine of dealing thairin. Bot, Sir, lett me faye, the Bifchop of Orknaye his ordinar preaching in Edinburgh will seme to be ane cloak for his non-refidence; quhairfoir it falbe meiteft that he, as otheris of our rank, falbe employed to teache thair *obiter*, and I ordinarlic; for as for me, *Ve mihi si non euangelizauero*, for that is my joye and crowne. All the Bifchopps in my Province ar now consecrated; for efter that I had performed that work, so, in Leith and Edinburgh, that the verie Precyflances, quho hed caried preiudice about that purpois, wer fullie fatifficit. Being informit that thofe of the North (quho benorth my Dyocie ar moir vnwrelic then any in the South) fpak calumnioufly, both in publiet and privat, of that consecration, I thoelt meitt thair alswa to praetize that actioun; and thairvpon have consecrated the Bifchopps of Abyrdein and Cathnes, in the Cathedrall Kirk of Breichine, being affifted with the Bifchopps of Dunkeld and Breichine, in the fight of fuch ane multitude of people as I never faw in fuch a bounds; and so the north as the south is weill refolved, in so much as I may compair with any Prelatt in the Ile of Britaine in the materis of obedience to God, the King, and to me the vnworthie fervand of yow both. As concerning your Maiefties direction anent the Ministeris of Fyffe that admitted Mr Robert Murraye vpon my Lord of Seone his presentatioun, I have cawfed fummmond them befor the Lordis of your Maiefties High Commiffioun, and fall

preyfflie follow your Maiefties direCTIONS anent them, if thair lay not ower the same vpon ane other. Thair hath bein ane greit jarr and fedition in Perth, be reffoun of ane emulatioun betuix Mr William Couper and the Clerk of the Tonne, quho had each one thair owne followeris; quhairvpon I haue both denuncit and finifhed ane vifitatioun of that kirk, quhairin I haue fetled that mater in peace and love and fatiffatioun of all pairties. Mr Johne Rutherford was placed be me in the Kirk of Dairie verie folemnelye befor the reffait of your Maiefties letter. My advyces ar fend heirwith to your Maieftie, quilkis pleis reid, and directt according to your Maiefties incomparable wifdome. Thus I befeik God to blefs your Maieftie with all temporall and fpirituall prosperitie in Chrift. I reft,

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient fervitour,

SANCTANDROIS.¹

Sanctandros, 3 Majj 1611.

CLVII.—THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOVERANE,

May it pleafe your moft Excellent Majestie: The moft Reuerend Father in God, your Majesties moft trustie Counfellour the Archbifhop of Sanctandros, our werie prudent Chancellor, hauing informit vs the Reftor, Deanes of Faculties, and remanent Maifteris of your Majesties Vniuerfite of Sanctandros, hou cairful your Majestie is of the florifhing eftait thairof, particularlie of the dedicatioune of ane commoune Bibliotheque thairto, quhairby learning (throche bypaff pemurie of buikis fumquhat decaying) may be, to the benefit of the Kirk and Commoune-

¹ [*Indorsed*].—“Glaidstanes B. of St Andros to his Maieftie, That he hes great peace and obedience in his Synodes: of Sr Jo. Ogilvy and Captane Tyry; that the Canon Law is taucht by his sone in law; that the consecration of Bifhops is weil lyked be all in all partes. Precisianes. 3 May 1611.”

veil, refuseitat; and vee vithin this your Majesties Vniuersitie moir inhabilit to your Majesties seruice: Vc can nocht without the blot of detestiable ingratitude and inexcusable videntifulnes to your Majestie, as our most gracious and beneficent Prince, but vith all humilitie of mynd and bodie, most hartlie thanke your Majestie thairfoir: And, vith the lyk humilitie in houp to be hard, most earnestlie intreat your Majestie to perlytly profecute that particulare purpose of liberalitie touardis vs: And generallie, according to the laudable dispositionne of your Majesties royall progenitoris of bliffed memorie, to continoue, to the immortalitee of your Majesties name, in aduaneing, be moiens and priueledges, this your Majesties principall and most renouued Vniuersitee vithin this realme. Thus, vith the permissioun, presuming to assure your Majestie of our most dentiful affection to your Majesties seruice, and furtherance thairof ather in Kirk or Commonne-veil, according to our pouer and vocatioun, Vee, from the bottome of our hartis, vniformlie recommend your Majesties royal personne and estait to the Almightee God; quho may blifs your Majestie in this lyf vith a long and prosperouus raigne, and vith ane aternal and glorions, in the lyf to cum.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient
seruitouris and subiectis,

MAISTER JHONE WEMIS, Rector.

MR JAMES MARTINE.

MR ROBERT HOVYE.

MR DAVID MONYPENNIE.

MR ROBERT WILKIE.

MR GEORGE MARTINE.

MR JHONE JONSTON.

MAISTER JHONE STRANG, MAISTER JAMES BLAIR.

M. PATRIK MALVILL.

MR WM. MACDOWELL. MAISTER JAMES SCHEVEZ.

M. PETER BRUCE.

MR ALEX^r HENDERSON, MR HENDRIE DANSKEIN.

MR JA. WEMYSE.

MAISTER WILLIAM LAMBIE.¹

Sauetaudrois, 4 Maij 1611.

¹ In the volume of Abbotsford Club "Letters, and Letters and State Papers, &c.," Edinburgh, 1838, 1to, this letter is inserted at page 200, accompanied with a facsimile of the signatures.

CLXVIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

Maye it pleis your most Excellent Maieftie, remember Mr William Watfoun, now Miniſter at the Kirk of Brunteland, wes at your Maiefties ſpeciall defyre removed from Edinburgh¹ to that Kirk; to which, becaws no ſtipend culd be had, it pleſit your Maieftie at that tyme to giue direſtioun to your Maiefties Collectour for payment of fyve hundreth merkis yeirlye to be payit to the ſaid Mr William furth of the reddieft of the rentis of the Collectorie, till ſum better proviſioun conveniently might be had; quhairupoun the Collectour then gair his band. Now it hath pleſit your Maieftie to command my Lord Prefident to dimit the office of Collectorie,² and to appoint ane number of your Maiefties Counfell to owersie your Maiefties rentis and casualities heir within this your Maiefties kyngdome; quho (without your Maiefties ſpeciall warrand and direſtioun) will have no cair to ſie the ſaid Mr William payit of his ſaid ſtipend appointit to him for his ſervice at the ſaid Kirk, as he hes bein in uſe of payment thairof be my Lord Prefident, then Collectour, ever ſince he was planted Miniſter at that Church; and that Church being one of the ſpeciall churches of my Dyocie, for proviſioun quhairof I am bund of all dewtie to be cairfull,—Am thairfoir maift humble to beſeik your Maieftie, that it may pleis your Maieftie to direct your Maiefties pleſour for payment of the ſaid Mr William his ſtipend furth of the reddieft of your Maiefties rentis quhatſumever, otherwayes he wilbe compellit to leave his charge, and that gude Toun be deſtitute of ane Miniſter. Thus I beſeik God to bleſs your Maieftie for ever.

Your Maiefties moſt humbill ſubject and ſervand,

Edinburgh, 25 Maij 1611.

SANCTANDROIS.

¹ Watson had been diſcharged from his office as one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, by King James, in September 1600, becauſe, with ſome of his brethren, he was “not clear” in regard to “the Gowrye Conſpiracy.” He afterwards became Miniſter of Burntisland; and was translated, in 1616, to Markinch, where he died in 1619.

² Mr John Preſtoun of Fentombarns: ſee foot-note to p. 184.

CLXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUVERAIN,

Quhairas it pleafed your Maieftie to direct me to cite fome Minifters of Fyfe befor your Hienes Hie Commiffione, for admiffione of the Minifter of Strameiglo to the functiõne of the minifterie¹ without confent and prefence of his ordinaire Bifhop againft the Canons of our Kirk, we haue fo done, and haue confyned them induring your Majefties pleafour, and quhil forder of your Maiefties will be knowne: We haue all fund that thefe perfons, *vidl.* Maifters Jhone Caldeleuch, James Pitcairne, Henry Leich in Auchtermuchte, and Androw Bennet in Monymeale, ar men nowayis of euil difpofitiõne, nor neur wer, to your Maiefties fervice, and quhat they haue done in this matter is only of fimplicite and ignorance, and thairfor I wes defyred to humbly intreat your Majeftie for pardone and relief of them fra their warding, fpecially in refpect that Mr Jhone Caldeleuch, quho wes principal actor, hes ener bene and is your Majefties faithful fervand, and being Moderatour of that Exercice, his abfence thairfra may doe harme. Thus we expect your Majefties grations answer anent them. But for as much as in that actione they wer directed be the Exercice, it falbe meit that your Majeftie gine directiõne and charge to me that the famen be diffolved, and out of the breach therof ane vther be ettablifhed in Falkland; fpecially fince, in the firft erectiõne of Prefbitries, Anno 1581. at Glasgo, Falkland wes appointed ane fpecial place for ane Prefbitrie (for I haue prefentlie read the Acts of that General Affembly). fwa that thair falbe ane gude warrand thairfor; and thairby alfo we will haue occafione to drawe in fome weill affected brethren to the Exercice of Sanctandrois, quhair remainis as yet fome braid of the auld Canaanits not fully rooted out.

Efter the returne of my Lord of Glasgo, among wther purpofes, he fthew me, that it wes your Maiefties pleafour and directiõne to my Lord Chancellour that, in cenfuring the toun of Sanctandrois, refpect fould

¹ This refers to the admission of Mr Robert Murray as Minister of Strathmiglo, in life, without his having obtained the consent of the Archbishop of St Andrews.

be had to me, and that I could be possessed with lyke privileges in the electione of the Magistrats thair, as my Lord of Glasgo is endwed with in that his citie. But quhils I passed to my Lord Chancellour to enquire of your Majesties pleasour thairanent, he denyes and miskenis the samen. My petitione is most just and reasonable; for, I will avowe to your Majestie, they haue not anie writ or warrand wnder heaven for that thair privilege; therfor justlie be your Majesties lawis it apperteenis to me, and in heicher measour than the vther to my Lord of Glasgo. Quhairfor it may please your Majestie to renewe your royal directione to my Lord Chancellour anent the recouerie of my richt, and that with diligence and peremptourlie; for your Majestie knowis quhat hes bene and is his Lordshipis dispositione towards us and our Estate: And for justifeing of your Majesties proceedings, it may please your Majestie direct the Lord Chancellour to command the Magistrats and Counsel of Sanctandros to produce the warrand of thair privileges at the next dyet of thair compeirance befor the Counsel, and it falbe fund, that they haue not so much as probabilitie of richt, quhilk is intollerable in your Majesties so just and majestick gouvernement. Sire, quhairas they ar troublesome, I wil be answerabill to your Majestie and Council for them efter that I be possessed of my richt; and as for thair furder censure, I hope your Majestie will use no lesse clemencie than your Majesties merciful inclinatione hath bene accustomed with of befor; for I will assure your Majestie, that befor euer these two men of the garde intimate thair errand and commissioun to the Magistrats, the guyltie persone wes out of thair hands and fugitive. Sire, I am not to defend them, and hope that the Lords of Council will mak ane trew relatione to your Majestie. Bot quhatsoever our knowne freindlyke foes haue informed or fall informe your Majestie of us and ours, I hope your Majestie will suspect the same, quhil wthers more vn suspect cleere the verritie thair of.

According to your Majesties directione, I haue admitted to the ministrie heir in Edinburgh Maister Thomas Sincerf,¹ and haue in great solemnitie taken of him the oath of supremacie to your Majestie, and obedience to me as his Ordinair; and I continewe in preaching euerie Sunday before noone in the Hie Kirk.

¹ Synserffe or Sydeserf: in 1634 he became Bishop of Galloway.

I wes bold to wreit to your Majestie laitlie anent Thomas Tyrie, quhois refort heir offendit all the godlie; and concerning ane Bibliothek to the Vniuersitie of St Androis; and my Sone of law, your Majesties most affectioned seruant, his teaching of the Canon Law. Thus the Lord your God bleße your Maiesties royal persone and estate for euer.

Your Majesties most devoted subject and seruitour,

SANCTANDROIS.¹

Edinburgh, 9 Junij 1611.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CLXX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MEMOIRS TO HIS SACRED MAJESTIE.

It will please your Majestie to directe the Counfel anent Capitaine Tyrie.

It will please your Majestie remember the dedicacione of ane Bibliothek to the Vniuersitie of Sanctandrois, be advyse of my Lord now of Canturberrie.

It wer expedient that the forme and ordour of making Bacheliers and Doctours of Divinitie and of the Lawes wer send homeward to me, that I might once create one or two Doctours, to incite wthers to the same honour; for we haue appointed both ane Facultie of Theologie and ane Deane thereof, nanelie, Maister Robert Howie, quhome we wald wishe to haue *Insignia Doctoratus*; and to encourage our ignorant Cleargie to learning, that your Majestie fould giue me and all wthers Bishops in this kingdome, directione, that in presentacione to

¹ [*Indorsed*].—"Glaid-stanes B. of St Androis shawes his Maiestie that he hath censured the Ministeris of the Presbytrie of Cuper for admitting of Mr Rob. Moray to Straniglo without the Bishop's consent; and desyres the Presbytrie of Cuper to be broken, and that the toune of St Androis be maid subject to him. 9 Junij 1611."

benefices, those who are graduate or in the course of Divinitie in this Vniuersitie, namelie, actuall Maisters and Regents, be preferred to anie others; and so your Majestie may purchase fame and honour immortal be the patrocinie of this the eldest mother of learning within this your Majesties most auncient kingdome.

Since in the Institutione of the College of Justice one day in the weeke should be given to the Kirks actions, which was Setterday, I would most humbly intreate your Majestie that commandment might be given to the Chancellair and President that the same be some other day, because it is the day of our studie, and on that day I may have libertie to come in to the Inner House, that be my roole all the actions of the ministerie and cleargie may be called; for I aschame, that when all the Ministers of the kingdome depende vpon me as their Primat and patron, I have not that credite, rather to have my awne nor their actions called. So I humbly beseech your Majestie, seeing the whole cleargie depends vpon me as vpon their loving father, in your Majesties absence, that I may have such credite as may vindicate me from contempt, and may further my estimatione for the gude of your Majesties service; for albeit my Lord of Glasgo be well myndit, yet the necessarie busines of his awne ecclesiastick charge avocats him from onwaiting on our turnes, and I am daylie resident thair in my awne chaire.

SANCTANDROIS.¹

CLXXI.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOVERAINE,

It may please your Gracious Maiestie: I am constrainit to tak my recourse to your Hienes favour in my gret necessity, albeit your Maiestie cost this benefice off the Bishoprik off Murraye from the vniuersall Lord Spynie,² yet trew it is the Lord Spynie circumvenit me, and gatt ane

¹ [*Indorsed*].—"B. Glaidstanes Memoires to his Maj. for ordour of making of Doctores of Divinity; for the liberty of ane day in the Sessione to call his awin and the Ministeris actiones."

² Sir Alexander Lindsay, Lord Spynie, had a charter of the manse of the precentor of

band of myne for ten thousand markis, to haif bein payit in ten yeir, and becaus I affirmit I vald certifie your Maieftie thairof, he promest in his owne tyme to difcharge the fanin for ane les foume; bot be being tane away, his brother Sir John Lyndfay, tutour to this Lord Spynie, agreit with me for four thousand and four hundreth merkis, quhilk I payit four yeir fence, nocht willing that the knowlege theroff fould hawe cum to your Maiefties earis. Bot now Sir Jhone Lyndfay being alfo dead,² and my band fund regiftrat, this Lord Spynie's curatouris perfewis me for fulfilling of that holl band of ten thousand markis. I moft humble defyre your Maiefties earneft letter to my Lord Chancelar off Scotland, felhwand that your Maieftie is offendit that any geir fuld be focht off me for that quhilk your Hienes payit for fufficiently; and nixt, that his Lordfhip will travell with the Earles of Mortoun and Kinghorne, now curatouris, to fetle that mater, and nocht to truble me as they will have your Maiefties favour; and that my Lord Chancelar will caus do me preceife justice anent my band off relieff, quhilk I haiff rather fence I haiff payit my geir. Laft, that his Lordfhip will advertteis your Hienes of the frutis of his travillis. Your Maiefties earneft letter will obtain fun cafe to me, vthervayes, giff I be compellit to pay the holl foume, I will never be able to ferve your Maieftie. I craiff moft humbly your Maiefties pardoun of this my importunity, and lookand for fun token of your Maiefties clemency toward me in this my humble petition, I wifche your Maieftie long profperity heir, and in end lyff eternal.

Your Hienes moft affectionat and obedient fervitour,

A. B. OFF MURRAYE.

Murray, 24th September 1606. The same year, his Lordship gave up to the King the lands belonging to the See of Murray, on payment of a sum of money.—(Wood's Peerage, vol. ii. p. 517.) A letter from the King to Lord Spynie on this matter is printed in the Abbotsford Miscellany, vol. i. p. 211, and in Lord Lindsay's Lives of the Lindsays, vol. i. p. 324. Lord Spynie, as stated at page 195, was slain in July 1607.

² Sir John Lindsay of Ballincho, tutor to his nephew, Alexander second Lord Spynie, died 29th January 1609.—(Riddell's Crawford-Lindsay Peerage Case, Table III.) Regarding this feud, see Lord Lindsay's Lives of the Lindsays, vol. i. pp. 385—393.)

CLXXII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW [TO SIR JAMES
SEMPILL OF BELTREES.]¹

Since your departure I was in Irwing at our Synode. The Burgeffis of Air met me sun fewin myles from the town, and attendit me quhil I remainit in the countrey. I was gritly importunit with thair confessionis of misbehaviour, and requestis to interceid with his Maieftie and Counceel for thair Minister² and thaim selfis. I answerit, that for any thing concernit my self I wes most willing to forgif it, and suld never remember the sam, but his Maiefties interest for the better governement of thair Town, and the punishing of the Minister, wes a point that I belewit the Lordis of Privie Counsil wold not, and my self durst not medle in. Thai intreatit ernesly anc delay o' matteris til his Maieftie suld be advertit of new of thair dispositioun to amend al thingis that wer past. But I said, his Maieftie wold expect to hear from ws of our proceedinge in these effaires, and no continewatioun could be had of the dyet, fearing of his Maiefties offense. So thai resolvit to keip the Counsil day and present thair supplicationis, quhilk wes this Fryday last. The ministeris wer al present at the Sinode, said one, Mr James Inglis³ I maid thaim a fermone of conscience, because those men do bragge much of it, and as I heard it touchit sun of thair consciences. Sun of thaim haif bein instant with me for bukis and conference, quhilk I haif promissit. We past our effaires quyety enough, and so partit.

The Lord Lowdon met me the morow after, and fet me by the way towardis Glasgo, beseeching me not to think that he favored the follyis of any fuche people; quhilk I said I never suspectit. From Glasgo I cam the day after to Edinburgh, in cumpany with my Lord Abireorn, who is returnit, thankis to God! said and in gud health. Be the way, I had large discourse with his Lordship of his Irish voyage, the nature of that

¹ The address of this letter is lost: but it occurs among some Sempill papers, in the Wodrow MSS., Folio vol. L., no. 97: and was evidently addressed to Sir James Sempill of Beltrees, in Renfrewshire.

² Mr George Dunbar: see No. CLXXIV.

³ Minister of Dailly, in Ayrshire.

land and people, and learnt many thingis that I do think fuld please his Maieftie wonderfully to hear, for the Plantatioun. I neid not fay to yow what you know your felf of that Nobleman, and his affection towardis his Maiefties fervice; only this, I know not his lyk. If his Hienes fuld think meit that he journeyit thither, he wald be glaid, vpon your advertifment, or rather his Maiefties defyr; and he fayis, he culd, in making account of his fervice, gif his Maieftie a fare and trew information of the ftate of al things thair, and mak his Hienes intelligence of diverfe thingis that tend allveil to the furtherance of his Maiefties profit as the weil and quyet of that kingdom. Befydis, I know his Lordfhip wil think it a gracing of his fervice that his Maieftie tak this notice of him, and that the famin wil animat his Lordfhip muche in his Maiefties proceedingis. And ghen he cumis, ye knaw, he is not, as other noblemen, fachionufe with fatis, nor wil importun his Maieftie in any fort with fuch lyk, thairfore ye may do, as ye find, after hearing, his Maieftie inclynit.

This day, at Comfal, we had the Minitter of Air, qho being chargit for praying publickly for the diftreffit brethren, wold haif fchiftit the matter vpon his generalitie in prayer, faying, that he prayit only for the afflictit memberis of Chrifits body; and that for his thochts he was not anfwerable to any man, for his wordis and actionis he wald gif account. I chargit him that he prayit for the banifchit Brethren. He faid, that thair war brethren banifchit in France, Italic, and Spain, and of thaim his prayer might be meant; yit the witnellis being examined, and he afterwardis preffit with thair depositions, and to fehaw his own mynd, culd not clear himfelf, and fo was found giltie; qhairvpon he was commandit to ward in Dumbartan town. I will not wryt any thing of the negligent handling of matteris, or how I wes compellit, being at Irwing, to fummoud witnellis in his mater vpon my own warrand, for thir ar thingis that wil not mend. The Burgeffis of Air hafing electit thair Magiftrats before the charge wes gifin thaim, as I fehew yow at parting, vpon the charge, maid anc new election of fik as his Majestie appointit, vnder proteftatioun that thair left to the Lordis of Counfal the judgment of thair firft, qwhether it wes lawfully done, and fuld stand or not. Thair fupplication tendit this day to fehew qhat obedience thair had gifin, and to befek the Lordis for thair liberties, that the famin

fuld not be imparit, and thair own electioun might stand. Thai menit tham felfis chiefly in this, that a craftisman wes chofen to be ane balze, quhilk newer wes thair permittit. The Counfal, after advyse, finding a grit faulte to be done in the executioun of the charge, be him that wes appointit messinger, tuk ordour to discharge al former electioun, and commandit tham of new to chuse Jhon Osburn proveft, James Jhonstoun balze, two that wer nominat be his Majestie, and one James Blair, a merchant, qho hes promisit grit reformatioun of matteris thair. Thus I think matteris ar thair quietit. I am only sollist for a Minister to the town; for thocht I haif grit sollistationis to resais his satisfacioun for thingis past, and furtie for gud behaviour in tyme cumming, I hold it no way fure to commit that flock to that Shepheard that hes teachit tham far to fray. Men ar heir very hardly found that hes curage or witt to cary tham felfis with suche ane affectit people, and I wold glaidly haif sum Englische man to reside thair for a season, be his Majesties direccioun. If his Hienes think otherwise, I fall do my best.

I am desyrit to obten this warrand, quiche heirwith I send, for my Lord of Lowdown and his Ant the Lady Eglintoun.¹ Ye wil cary it so that no man vnderstand, for the matter is reasonable in it self to be grantit, and thai wold haif it so qwyt as none suld know the sam, leist ane other warrand suld be obtenit in the contrair; for ye know qho hes entresse. It makis to my credit with those folkis, and will assure tham to me in his Majesties service, for quich respecite ye wilbe plesit humblie to desyr his Majesties hand vnto it, and leave the sam vndatit and vnclofit, sending the sam to me with the first occasioun. The other letter is a request for Mr Patrik Melvil to the Archbishop of St Andrewis, quhilk his Majestie haifing signit, yow wil cause James Dowglas catchet.

Being this day at compositiounis, the Chancellar, in the beginning, declarit that thai wer sum that maid informationis to his Majestie anent the Thesaurar comptis, the schortnes of tham, and the controlling of sum particularis, and maid Sir John Arnot offer tham to any that wald yit

¹ Sir Hugh Campbell of Loudoun was created Lord Campbell of Loudoun, 30th June 1601. His aunt, the eldest daughter of Sir Mathew Campbell, married Robert Montgomery of Giffen, who had been styled Master of Eglintoun, as presumptive heir of the title: their only daughter married her cousin-german, Hugh, fifth Earl of Eglintoun.

revife than. Qhen every man had anfwerit, I kept flence, and fald nothing. He fayit, This is our ald gaddis, to be ever making complaintis. Henry Wardlaw declarit, that his Majeftie expectit that he fuld haif füm money ouer, be thair Lordfclips laboris, and fuld not be kept vnder dett this way. The Prefident anfwerit, I wold thai wer money, but it muft not go to England.

I go, on Monday next, towardis Peblis, for our Sinode thair, and wil returne from Glasgou to Edinburgh before Hallow tide, Godwilling. from fik as ye fent tham to, as alfo,¹ and make me acquaint with his Majefties pleafure in the premissis, and to recomend my humble fervice to his Majeftie. I commend yow fo hartely to Godis protection, and reftis

Your affurrit freind,

GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, the 12 of Oct^r 1611.

The laft of the pacquet hes maid me ftay to wryt Mr Pa. Melvine's letter. It is only to requieft the Bifchop, in regard of his gud affection to the Kingis Majefties fervice, to fie that he be reftorit to his firft ftipend,² and gratefeit in any thing quhairin thair falbe occafion to do him plefour. James Dowglas wil draw it vpon your defyr. The other warrant incloftit ye wil lat no man fie or hear of.

CLXXIII.—HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF
GLASGOW.

Right reverend Father in God, Our right trusty and weill-beloved Countadour, We greet yow hartely weill. Out of confideratione of the

¹ The letter is partially mutilated, and some words illegible.

² See McCrie's *Life of Melville*, vol. ii. p. 189. Mr Patrick Melvin, or Melville, a nephew of Andrew Melville, was Professor of Hebrew in the University of Glasgow; and was brought, in 1587, to fill the same chair in St Mary's or the New College, St Andrews. In July 1616, he was created D.D.—(*Calderwood's History*, vol. vii. p. 222, vol. viii. p. 95.)

perfeverance of Mr Dumbar, late Minifter of Air, in his enormyteis, and howe vnfit fuehe a head fhuld prow for fuehe a body; and yet vnwillig that the people of that toun (which yow reporte fo weill of) fhuld be vnprovidid of fufficient Pafouris, We haue thocht it good to command yow, in Our name and autoritie, to call vnto yow Mr William Birney (of whome We haue heard often weell), and direct him fo fpeedely as yow can to tak a charge of the toun of Air, and fuplie Dumbar's place; as alfo, that ye tak fome courfe for the Churche at which he now ferueth, leaft it be difapoynted. The particular cariage We muft remitt to your difcretioune. Onlie, let this be a fufficiend warrant for yow, the toun of Air, and Mr Birney, to go on as fhallbe expedient, and as yow fhall certifie Us, or requyre further fhenthe for remouing either of inpedimentis or aeknowledging the ductyis of fuehe as obedientlie anfwere Our will, intending euir their owne weels, you fhallbe fpeedely fatiffeit.

Farder, We haiving of long tyme refolved to reftore the auncient dignity of our Chapell Royall in that Kingdome, and confidering that Air is a Churche therypon depending, We haue made choice of Mr Birney¹ to ferve there, the rather becaus We haue a mynd to prefer him alfo to be Deane of Our faid Chapell.

As for Mr Williame Levingftoune,² newes of that nature are euir acceptable to ws, but We wifhe they wer certane and Therefore We will that yow, out of your knowledge (as one at whole handis We will craiue the account of his behaviour), fo proceed in releafing his confynment as ye knaw he meritts. And fo farre We doe give yow this for your warrant. And fo we bid yow hairtely fairweell.³

Whitehall, the tenth day of Apryll 1612.

¹ Mr William Birnie was a native of Edinburgh, and became Minister of Lanark (see *supra*, note to page 115), in December 1597. Agreeably to the tenor of the above letter, he was translated to Ayr, in 1612, where he died in 1619, aged 56.

² Levingstoun, Minister of Monyabrock, in Stirlingshire, soon after this became Birnie's successor as Minister of Lanark. He died in 1641, aged 65.

³ [*Indorsed*]"—"Copy of his Majesties letter anent the placing of Mr Birney Minister at Air, sent to the Archbifchope of Glasgow, daittit the tenth of Aprill 1612."

CLXXIV.—SIR ROBERT MELVILLE OF MURDOCAIRNEY TO
KING JAMES.¹

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAGNE,

Sen it hes pleisit your Sacred Maieftie, owt of your accustumat fanour to me, baith to writt and direct my Lord Chancellor to will the Archebifhope of Sanctandros to deall with me in my particular, as he him self and uther Bifchoppis hes delt with thair wadallis; yit howfoever he hes anferit your Maieftie, I fand na thing bot ane abfolute difpofitioun and purpois to tranffer, in the perfone of his Sone,² that pece land quhilk his prediceffouris refingit in my fanour, to be haldin of your Sacred Maieftie; notwithstanding that I haif continuallie bene offering quat fatiffactioun, with reafoun, it fuld pleis ony of the Bifchoppis, or vther difereit men, that I fuld do for the renewing of my infeftment. I am efchamit that I fuld thus wayis be facheious vnto your Sacred Maieftie, bot finding my self fo fraitit be his rigour, I haif na vther refuge bot to feik to your Maiefteis vounted gracious fanour, that be your Hienes direccioun of this vther warrand to the Lordis of Seffion, all actioun intendit be him agunes me may ecifs; in fa fer as it is your Maiefteis fpeciall will and command that our difference be compofit be the Archebifhope of Glasgow, the Bifchoppis of Orknay and Elis, as men weill knawin to be affectit to do reafoun and meffour with fanour and quyetnes to all men; for to thair judgement, anent fik fatiffactioun as I fall mak for the renewing of my infeftment, I am willing abfolutlie to abyd and ftand. And fa, with all humilitie, kifland your Maiefteis moft facred handis, I pray God in mercy to grant your Maieftie mony

¹ Sir Robert Melville was Treasurer-Depute, and an Extraordinary Lord of Session. He was raised to the peerage, by the title of Lord Melville of Monimail, in 1616, and died in 1621, at the advanced age of ninety-four.—The original letter has no date. Sir James Balfour has placed it under May 1612, in his volume of "Staite Bussines for the yeires 1612 & 1613."

² This probably refers to some grant in connection with the Archdeanry of St Andrews, to which the Archbishop's Son, Dr Alexander Gladstones, had recently been preferred.

joyfull and happie dayes, to his glory, and the confort of all your faithfull fervandis and subiectis.

Your Maiefties maift humbill and obedient feruitour,

S. ROBERT MELUILL.

To the Kingis moft Excellent Maieftie.

CLXXV.—THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair hes bene ane petition exhibite vnto vs be Anna Home, eldest lauchfull doghter to the lait Erll of Dunbar, of goode memorie, proporting, that althocht sho hes coniunct entres and clame with hir vther fuster in the right of successioun to hir faderis hail estate and leving, and that accordinglie thay ar bothe subiect to the burdyne of his ingagementis and debtis, whilkis fould haif bene defrayit and payit of the reddiest of his mouablis and goodis; that neuirtheles sho hes sustenit very grite preiudice, insofar as the Erll of Suffok, vnder coullour of ane intendit mariage betwix the Lord Walden his son and the vther fuster, whiche is not accomplisheit, and litle certantie and appeirance thairof, hes gottin the intromissioun with hir faderis hail mouablis, jewellis, and siluer plaitt, allweele in England as at Berwick, and he being one aganis whome hir faderis creditouris can haif no executioun be the lawis of this kingdome, the burdyne of hir faderis hail debtis heir, whilkis furmonteth ane hundreth thousand pundis, will light vpoun hir and hir husband, to the wrake and ouerthrowe of thame and thair estate; and thairfoir, thair requeist and petition vnto vs wes, that we wald recommend thame vnto your Sacred Maieftie: whiche petition being hard and deulie confidderit be vs, and we knowing the sinceritie of your Maiefties royall hait and dispositioun, whiche in all your Maiefties actiounis produceth most lyvelie argumentis and taikymis of pietie, equitie, and iustice, to the vnspeakable conforte of all your Maiefties

goode subiectis, ar thairvpom embauldenit on the behalf of thir petitionaris to recommend thame in this particulair to your Maiefties gracious and princelie confideratioun, and humelie to intreate your Maiefties fauour, that howenir vpon some confiderationis the Erll of Suffok hes gottin poffeffioun of that noblemanis goodis, whairvnto he can pretend no prefent clame nor title, and whilk is lykewayes difputable althocht the mariage wer accomplifheit, that yitt your Maieftie, in the excellent perfection of your cleir iudgement and fingulair wifdome, will tak fuchie courfe as the fame goodis, jewellis, mouables, and filuer plaitt may be putt in indifferent keeping, to be furthecomeand, according to the courfe of law and iuffice, to fuchie as falbe foundin to haif right thairunto; that fo as that nobleman who now reftis with God leuit in very goode foirt, credite, and reputatioun, and left fufficientlie of his awne to defray all his burdynis and debtis, evin fua now some cair may be had that his name be nocht broglt in queftioun, his creditouris preiudgeit, nor this his doghter and hir hufband wrackit and vndone with the burdyne of his debtis, whenas thair is enough of his awne to do that turne. And thus humelie craving your Maiefties pardon for this oure prefumptioun, and praying Almightye God to bliffe your Maieftie and your royall progenye with all happynes, we reft for ever,

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedyent
fubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLA.	SANCTANDROIS.
LOTHIANE.	ARGYLE.
GLASGOW.	LINLITHGW.
ABERCORNE.	BLANTYRE.
KILSAYTH.	BURCLUGHE.
GLENCAIRNE.	R. COKBURNE.
Edinburgh, penult of May 1612.	SCONE.

To the King his moft Sacred and
Excellent Maieftie.

CLXXVI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

May it please your most Excellent Maieftie : Whairas ane foule slaughter hath bene committed of one Smyth, ane aledged fals coinzear, befyd Thurfo in Cathnes, efter he was taken be sum gentilmen of South-erland vpon your Maiefties commiffioun, at the which tyme also thair was two gentilmen flaine of the name of Sinclair. The slaughter of the apprehended was laid vpon the Erle of Cathnes his men, which imputatioun implied fufpitioun of foule crymes. Alwayis the noble man was abfent owt of the cuntrey at that tyme, and efter he was adverteifed of thofe reportis hath cum in prefence of the Lordis of your Maiefties moft honorable Privie Counfell, and with great courage bath offered himfelff to tryell, and hath taken in hand verie hardelie to prooffe that the man was flaine be his takeris, and his kinfmen innocentlie flaine. The act is foule in one of the pairties fyd, and I dowt not bot your Maieftie will burdeine the Lordis of your Maiefties moft honorable Privie Counfell¹ to try and punifhe accordingle. Bot this I will fay, I neuer hard any offer themfelff to tryell with better courage and probabilitie of innocencie. Bot that I refer to Godis wifdome to feareh, and to your Maiefties wyfe directioun, according to your power and incomparable fkill whairwith God hath endowed your Maieftie. Thus I humbelie befeech God to continow and increafe all bleffingis vpon your Maiefties faered perfon and eftate for euer. I reft,

Your Maiefties moft humble fubiect and ferviteur,

SANCTANDROIS.

Edinburgh, 29 Maij 1612.

¹ See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. iv. p. 231-232. In the same place will be found a copy of the Submission betwixt George Earl of Caithness, Lord Beridail his son, and John Earl of Sutherland, dated 16th July 1612, in reference to the dispute mentioned in the immediately subsequent letter, No. CLXXVII., of the Earl of Caithness.

CLXXVII.—THE EARL OF CAITHNESS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRASIVS SOVEREN :

Pleife your most Sacared Maieftie, my most humbill feruice rememberd, becaufe the report will cum to your Sacared Maiefties eiris of the leatt accident fallen out in Catlmes ; my felfe, my eldeft fone and brother, being vith me in Edinburgh, quhair off the aduerfar pairties informatioun, all reddie gevein to the Counfell, perhaps vill cum to your Hienes knaulage, I houþ fall try far contrar to the verettie, at the day appointed to that effect. In the mid tyme, I only humblie intret your Sacared Maieftie to rest in fufpenfe quhill the faid day of tryell, and thair efter to think of the forfaid accident according to the trouthe and as I haue informit my freindis, at grytter lenthe, of the veretie ; and if it fall prone vtheruayis nor I haue vryten to thame, your Maieftie fall haue my lyffe.

Your Maieftie rememberis of the decreit, gifn in your Hienes preſenſe, aganeſt the Erle of Sutherlandes pretendit Regalettie : the pairtie hes begune to feik reducioun of the Decreit pronounft. It may pleife your Maieftie to ſignifie vnto the Advocat and Lordis off the Seſſioun quhat is your Hienes pleſoure ; as alfo, quhow I fall cairie my ſelf in defens of the ſam, conforme to the quhilk and all vther thingis quhilk tendis to your Maiefties ſervice and obediense, in all humille deutie I fall, God willing, cairrie my felfe in all finferetie and deuotioun to my lyfis end, praying to God for your Maiefties lange dayis and proſperouſe aſtete. Vith al humiletie I end, and euer fall reſt,

Your Maieſteis moſt humbill and obedient
ſervant to the deithe,

Edinburgh, the laſt off May 1612.

CAITHNES.

To his moſt Graſius Sonerene the Kingis
moſt Exſelent Maieſtie.

CLXXVIII.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

May it please your Sacred and gracious Majeste: The disloyall dispositione and doing of the Earll of Orenay, Robert his bafe sone, and Mr James his brother, withe their adherents, does inforce me (thogth most vnwilling in any case to truble your gracious Majeste), bothe to wreet, and by my letter to present in most humble maner, and with all respectiue submissiion, my informatioun and desyrs to your Sacred Majeste.

The Earll, by his continuall directions, hes animated his sone, brother, and seruants, to the number of fourscore persons, to tak arms, to victuall and furnish the castell, palace, and stipill of Kirkwall, withe full purpose to hold the sam aganist your Majestes authoritie, to impeid your seruic, and resist your commissiioners. I acknowledg that I fould be very iniurious to that nobill man, and to muche malapert to wreit so to your Majeste, if I wer not certanle informed bothe of the Earll his intention and directions, by ane honorabill gentil man, the Laird of Buchanan, to whome he vttered his mynd withe greater boldnes, and muche les respect, then becam his Lordship. As also, of the practising of his sone, brother, and seruantis, by ane declaration maid this sam day to my Lord Chancellor, and some others of your Majestes honorabill Counsell, by my Lord Earll of Cathnes, and by the testimonies of diuers honest men who comes heer, some euerie week from Orenay.

The mater being weel knowen and aduyselle pondered by my Lords Chancellor and Aduocat, your Majestes very wyfe and truste Counsellars, they haue thoght it fitt, for your Majestes seruic, that I fould go, with all possible diligenc, to those Ilands to pacife the apperand troubles, to secur the subiects, to arrest the Earll his moveable goodis, and to possess your Majeste withe the same and all other the annuellis whiche ar yitt vnpayed be the tenentis.

And seing I am not only most straitle bond, bot most willingle affected rather to hazard and profound any lyff, then to see your Majestes royall

authorite contemned, or to suffer your godly and just proicets tak any robb or dafh, I will humble befeek—

1. That your grations Majeste wold be pleafed to giue direction and warrant, vnder your own hand, to Buchanan, now Capitan of Dumbartan, to clofe vp the Earll in his chamber, and that no man (fome on or two feruandis excepted) haue accefs to him without warrant from the Chancellar or Counfell. So my feruic fall be facilitat, his pryde and obftinacie abated, his contempt punished, his defignements croffed, the courfe of his continuall directions to Orenay stopped, and be moued to furrender him felf and his wholl ftait to your Majeftes juft arbitrement.

2. That your grations Majeste wold be pleafed to command the Counfell to modife his exorbitant expences, and to affur the Capitan who furnifhes him of payment, ellis he will ftarue for hunger or fpend with profufion.

3. That your grations and faered Majeste wold be pleafed, eyther by request, command, or commiffion, to employ the Earll of Cathnes in that feruic, if need be, that I may be affifted, the countries quyeted, and the rebells fubdued. His Lordfchip hes very franely offered this day to my Lord Chancellar, and at all tymes to me, to do that feruic to your Majeste, and wold be glaid to giue proof of his loyall hart and difpofition to your faered Majeste, in that or any other your Majeste fall be pleafed to command his Lordfchip.

4. That your grations and faered Majeste wold giue direction to my Lord Chancellar to wreat to the Earll of Orenay, willing him to wreat to his fone and brother to abandon that countrey, to delyver the houfes and all to your Majeftes Commiffioners, certifeing his Lordfchip and them that they fall not be giltles of rebellion, nor vnpunifhed for it, if any refiftance be made: For the Earll hes faid, to Buchanan, that quhatfoeuer fall be committed in Orenay can not be imput to him in his abfene and ward.

Sir, I wold neuer, from my vnworthy bafnes, prefumed to haue wreten fo long ane letter to your moft excellent Majeste, if the needfite and expedience of your feruice had not vrged and preffed me, and the fincerite and britnes of my hart to ferue your Majeste had

not raised vp my confidene both of pardon to my coacted boldnes and correction of any falt whiche hes efcaped me through ignoranc or inconfideration. And feing I fall endeavour, by God his grace, to approue my felf in diligenc and fidelite (I will not fay wifdome, becaus it is fufficient for a faithfull feruant to haue a wyfe master), I will finifh this letter with this laft humble petition refpe&cting your gracious Majeftef own good.

That your gracious and facred Majefte will difpofe of nothing concerning Orenay or Zetland till it fall pleife God that I report agane to your Majefte, by my felf or my letter, as your Majefte fall pleis to mak cheyfe, the particular and trew information of the whole eftait of thofe Iflands.

Bot referring and fubmitting humble all to your Majeftef great wifdom and good pleafure, I moft humble and affectionatlie kiffes your Majeftef hand, praying God to defend and bliffe your Royall and facred perfon and wholl government from all euills and with all goods.

Your Majefties moft humble and fubie&ct and feruant,

Edinburgh 5 Junij 1612.

JA. B. OF ORCADS.

To the King his moft Excellent Majefte.

CLXXIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

Petitioun hes bene preferrit vnto vs be Thomas Wattfoun, mercheant burges of Edinburgh, proporting that he having thir diuers yeiris bigane travellit to the Kingdome of Swaden, in his lauchfull trade of merchandice, quhair ordinarlie he maid fale of his commodityis to the King him felff, who ftandis debtfull to him be his laft yeiris compt in fevin thoufand dolouris, to haif bene payit this yeir. He, to gett payment of that fowme, addrefst him felff to Swaden aboute Pasche laft,

having commissioun lykewayes frome the Deane of Gild and Counfell of Edinburgh, to buy vnto thame so mutche tymmer as wald serue for thair New Kirk¹ in the Gray Freir yaird; and arryveing at the porte of Newliddus in Swaden, he thair boght his tymmer, ladnit twa shippis thairwith, and with some otheris commodityis and wairis, and send the same away towardis this your Maiesteis kingdome; whilkis shippis, being vpon thair deu course hither, wer persewit, tane, and maid lauchfull pryse be your Maiesteis darrest bruther the King of Denmark his shippis, vnder pretext of the weare betuix him and Swaden, whairof this Petitionar declairit he wes ignorant, and his desyre wes, that we wald recommend him to your Maiesteis said darrest Bruther for redres and resitutioun to be maid to him of his shippis and goodis. This petition being hard and considerit be ws, we wald not presume to deale thairin with your Maiesteis said darrest Bruther, bot in all reuerence hes refered that vnto your Sacred Maiesteis self, whose tender cair and faderlie regard towardis all your Maiesteis distrestit subiectis hes at every interuening occasioun kytheit so pouerfull to thair exceiding grite confortis. And thairfoir we wilbe bauld in all submissioun to recommend this particular, and the preparatiue whilk may follow thairvpon in the lyke caise, to your Maiesteis graue and princelie consideratioun, that it wald pleis your Sacred Maieste,² in your princelie wislome, to tak suche course with your said darrest Bruther, as this poore Petitionair may be redrestit and restoitit to his shippis and goodis; and that no forder violence nor harme be done to him, nor vtheris your Maiesteis subiectis, hanting thair trade of mercheandice in the Kingdome of Swaden, bot that thay may find and haif heirefter suche fauourable and kynd vface, with suche respectiue consideratiounis as the happy and blissit allya betuix your Sacred Maieste and your said darrest Bruther, and the brotherlie and goode correspondencie whilk your Maieste hes inviolablie kept with him doeth require. And so craving pardoun for this our presumption, and

¹ Afterwards called the Old Grayfriars Church, a second church having been added in 1718, when part of the former "was blown up by gunpowder, belonging to the Town, which had been lodged in the steeple."—(Arnot's Hist. of Edinburgh, p. 272.)

² A note upon this letter states, that "His Majestic, according to the desire of this letter, hath written to the King of Denmarke by Sir Thomas Lake."

praying God to blisse your Maieftie with a lang, happie, and prosperous reiginn, we rest for ever,

Your Maiefteis most humble and obedyent subiectis and fervitouris,

JO. PRESTOUN.	AL. CANCELL ^s .
T. BALFOUR.	GLASGOW.
R. COKBURNE.	SCONE.
	BLANTYRE.

Edinburgh, 20 Junij 1612.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Maieftie.

CLXXX.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY OF NEWTON TO KING JAMES.

MOSTE GRATIOUS AND DREADE SOVERAYNE,

According to directioun, immediatlye vpoun my arryvall heir, I delyuered to the tuo Archbishops, being together, the draught of the Confessioun of Faith, wherant they ar to wryte, and fend vp there owne opinions. For my owne pairte, I do skairfe think that it can be ather added to, or altered to the better, haveing alreddy abidden suiche a tuich-stone; but leaving the Divines to there owne functioun, I wes the more vnable to yield thame satisfacioun in there doubt, when the fame wer reserved wp from me.

Anent the keiping of the Parliament,¹ I haif acquainted the Archbishops therewith, as in lyike fort the Chancellour, haveing shewin no cause thereof, bot the aid of remanding; and therewith to my Lord Chancellour only as yit, the courfe to be takin thereat for some supplye to my Lady Elizabethis marriage. In these few vnto whome it is alreddy impairted, I do find contrarye opinionis both of allowing and disproveing the holding of it; bot heirof your Maieftie is to be certified at more lenth by nixt packett.

¹ The Parliament was held October 1612, and an Act passed agreeing to "the voluntar offer of a taxatioun, maid to his Majestic," of L.240,000 Scots, on occasion of the marriage of his daughter the Lady Elizabeth.—(Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv. p. 478.)

Anent Excommunicat Noblemen, and the advertifment which fuld haif bein fince fent to your Maieftie anent thame, Glasgou dothe excufe him felf, in fo far as both thefe Noblemen ar within St Androis his province. The other layeth the blame vpon the Bifhoppis who wer employed in that fervice ; alwayes he hathe vndertakin, that if it be not alreddy done, that it falbe performed with fpeid. In this bufynefs betwix my Lord Chamberlyne and Coldenknowis, I have written to my Lord Fentoun at lenth all difficultyes which I do find therin, being afear'd if I fuld haif conteyned thame in this fame letter, and rather referring it to his difcretion, to be impairt to your Maieftie at your Highnes beft leafure. No packett fall runne,¹ bot your Maieftie fall vnderftand of my difcharge of fome pairte of my laidening, untill I do cleare myfelf, difburleynd of whatevir is within my Inftitutionis conteyned ; wherein, I do humblye entreate your Maiefties pardoun, if, in doing thereof, I fuld the more frequentlye wryite. And withing from God the daylie increafe of your Maiefties health and happynes, I humblye kifs your facred hand, and reftis,

Your Maiefties moft humble and dewtifull fubiect and fervant,

Edinburgh, 4 July [1612.]

ALEX^R. HAY.

CLXXXI.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

As it hes pleafed your Maieftie to direct me, and my Lord your Maiefties Secretarie, for advyfyng anent our affairs to be handeled in this approaching Parliament : So happilie did I find him and my Lord of Glasgou both in this town, and conveened them both immediatlie after my arrivng ; and with good advyffement we have made choyce of thofe things which ar moft neceffarie, and have omitted thofe articles which

¹ At this time Hay still held the office of Secretary of State : see note to next page.

might feame to eary invy or fufpition, or which your Maieftie, by your Royall authoritie, might performe be your felf. Bot we all hold faft the conclufion, that it is moft neceffarie and convenient, both for your Maiefties fervice and weill of the Chnreh, that the day, viz. the 12 of October, fhall hold precifelic, to the which the Parliament was proclaimed upon the 24 of this instant. I will affure your Maieftie, that the verie evill will which is caryed to my Lord Chancelar, be the Nobilitie and people, is lyke to make ws great ffore of freindfchip, for they know him to be our profefled enimie, and he diffembles it not. I thank God that it pleased your Maieftie to make choyce of my Lord Secretare¹ to be our formalift and advyfer of our acts, for we find him wyfe, faft, and fecret. We fhall not be idle in the meane tyme to prepare fuch as haue vote to incline the right way.² All men do follow us, and hunt for our favour, vpon the report of your Maiefties good acceptance of me and the Bifhop of Caitlmes, and fending for my Lord of Glasgou, and the procurement of this Parliament without advyfe of the Chancelor; and if your Maieftie will continue thefe fhyning beames and fhowres of your Maiefties favour, doutles the verie purpose that feames moft difficill wil be facilitate to your Maiefties great honor and our credite, which, if it wer greater nor it is, your Maieftie could reffave no intrefte; for befides, that no Eftate can fay that they ar your Maiefties creatures as we may fay, fo there is none whose ftanding is fo flipperie when your Maieftie fhall frowne, as we, for at your Maiefties nodd we either moft ftand or fall. Bot we refer the more ample declaration of thefe purposes, and other points of your Maiefties fervice, to the fufficiencie of my Lord of Glasgou, and my good Lord Secretar, the fourtenth Bifhop of this kingdome: Bot my Lord of Glasgou and I ar contending to which of the two Provinces he fhall apperteane: Your Maieftie, who is our great Archbifhop, muft decyd it. Thus, efter my moft humble and hartie thanks for your Maiefties good acceptance and grations difpatch laitle,

¹ Sir Thomas Hamilton, afterwards Lord Binning, and Earl of Haddington. He had been received as Clerk-Register, in May 1612; but before the date of this letter, he had exchanged his office with Sir Alexander Hay of Nexton for that of Secretary of State.

² At this Parliament, the Acts and Conclusions of the General Assembly held at Glasgou in June 1610 were ratified.

which hes filled the cares of all this kingdome, I befeech God to heap vpon your Maieftie the plentie of all fpirituell and temporall bleffings for ever. I reft,

Your Maiefteis moft humble fubiect and fervitour,

Edinburgh, the laft of Auguft 1612.

SANCTANDROIS.

CLXXXII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS AND THE BISHOP OF CAITHNESS TO JOHN MURRAY.

HONOURABLE SIR,

Efter my hartlie commendatiouns, I haue fene the kynd letter that ye fent to the Bifchope of Caithnes, and according thairto, we haue fpokin with my Lord of Glasgou, who hes maid his excufe to ws, that he never menid bot that ye fould remane our Agent and Mediatour with the Kingis Maieftie, and that Sir James Sempill fould only be the receaver of our letters: Always we think that ye may be fund more conftantlie about the King than he. We haue gewin aue commiffion to my Lord of Glasgou that he fould move the Kingis Maieftie to burdene yow off new with the agencie of our affairis, for the quhilk I will affure yow of loue and thankfulnes. Bot I refer more full declaratioun of thofe matters to the fufficiencie of my Lord of Glasgou, the beaer heirof; and efter my humble prayeris to God for the Kingis faiftie and prefervation, I alfo wifhe that ye far well in the Lord. So I reft,

Your loving and affured brother,

SANCTANDROIS.

Edinburgh, the laft of Auguft 1612.

AL. B. CAITHNES.

SIR,

I befeche yow¹ remember the yung man, Walter Finlafoun,

¹ This postscript is added by the Archbishop himfelf.

quhome I recommendit to yow, of quhom ye alfo mak mentiou in your letter to my Lord of Cathnes, for the quhiche I geve vnfained and hartie thankis.

To the worfchipfull and our loving freind,
 Johne Murrey, one of his Majefties bedchamber.

CLXXXIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUVERAIN :

May it pleife your moft Excellent Maieftie to remember, that I haue once or twyce maid mentiou to your Maieftie of my fone-in-law, the Commiffer of Sanctandros, quho now hes bene thefe two yeirs Rector in the Uniuerfite;¹ and, as I thew your Maieftie, hes exercifed ane publick profeffioun in the Cannon Law ordinarily heir, without onie gages, only for your Majefties honour, and his honeft inclinatioun to learning; and thairby, and be his publick difputations, as my Deput Vice Chancellor, hes conqueifed to himfelf fuche ane reputatioun as all learned and verteous men regraits that his learning and raire vertews fould not reffave ane illufre and fenfible promotioun. I muft fay, that nixt the promotioun of Mr William Oliphant² to be your Majefties Advocat, ther is none that will better lyke your people, not only for his learning (quhich in his profeffioun is inferiour to none), but alfo for his great integritie and aefaldnes in his judicatorie, and the whole tenor of his lyfe. His freinds have delt with my Lord of Tungland³ for dimiffioun of his rowme in Seffioun, quho is content to dimitte it, that fuch ane worthie man may be his fuceffour; and as that auncient Senatour

¹ Mr John Wemyss of Craigton: He was Rector of the University of St Andrews in the years 1611 and 1612.

² Mr, afterwards Sir William Oliphant of Newton had been appointed, in June 1612, Lord Advocate, in place of Sir Thomas Hamilton, Clerk Register.

³ Mr William Melvill, Commendator of Tungland, was brother to the first Lord Melvill. This fupplication by the Archbishop of St Andrews in favour of his son-in-law being raised to the bench proved at this time unsuccessful. Melvill died 3d October 1613.—(Conf. Test. Commissariat of Edinburgh.)

is ane conscientious man, so he esteemis ane greit releif to his confidence, that he staiks so weil his place in his awne tyme: bot nather will the cedent overgiue, nor the apparent succellour wndertak the bargain, vntil it please your most gracious Maiestie to allowe of both. So, if it please your Maiestie to accept this gentleman to enter in that rowme of your Maiesties seruice, the block will hold, and he with his freinds will satisfie my Lord of Tungland for his kyndnes of the rowme; and wtherwayis, vpon your Maiesties declaratioune, they ar to surreasse, and to awaytte on ane better ocaasionne, as your Maiestie shall thinke fitte. This is nothing, Sire, dissonant from the first Institutioune of the Colledge of Justice, for this gentleman is ane Ecclesiastick Judge, and so hes bene there foure yeirs bygone. He is the Rector and Vice Chancellor of your Maiesties cheif Vniuersitie heire, and ane Professour of ane Theologicke professione, and so I thinke little or no derogatioune maid to that fundatioune, as your Maiestie knowis. He heth, Sire, so weil merited, in discussing your Maiesties prerogative Royal, cheifly in matters Ecclesiasticall, and the power of Bischops in Church gouernement (quhairant heirafter also he may doe gude seruice) that it becometh vs all to aduance him, and thanke him to our vttermoost powers; I darre not be so bold as to direct your Maiestie for respect to me, your Maiesties old seruant, to accompt somequhat better of him, quhome, I protest befor God, I should neuer haue recommendit to your Maiestie, wer not I am assured that your Maiestie will haue be him gude seruice, and the lyking of your people: Thus referring to the sufficiencie of the berar, your Maiesties old, forward and faithfull seruant, quhome your Maiestie will please heare, and thereafter, be your Maiesties awne writ or wtherwayis, declare your Maiesties gracious will in this and some wther Church matters, I beseech God to continowe his faving and healthfull protectione vpon your Maiesties sacred personne and royal gouernement for euer. And I rest,

Your Maiesties most obedient subject and seruant,

Sanctand. 23 September 1612.

SANCTANDREWES.

CLXXXIV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO JOHN MURRAY.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND LOVING BROTHER,

Since we gaue commiffione to my Lord of Glasgo to deale with his Maieftie for burdening yow with our affaires, as wes first intendit, I wald verrie earnestly knawe of yow quhat he hath wrocht in that turne, quhiche wes delyvered to him be the whole Eftate of the Prelats. I muft relye vpon your credite for furduring the berar both to prefence of his Maieftie, and to quicke difpatche; for, as for me, the kyndnes that I bear to yow fall die with my felf, lyk as I knawe your constant honeftie and treuthe, quhich no man misknawis quho knawis yow. Thus, efter my verrie hairty commendations to gude, kynd Robert Hay, and to Sir Robert Dowglas, I wille yow to fare weill in the Lord; referring to the berar, and rest,

Your affured loving brother to the end,

SANCTANDROIS.

Sanctandros, 23 September 1612.

To the richt worshopful Jhone Murraye,
groome of his Maiefties chalmer, Thefe.

CLXXXV.—MEMOIRIS TO BE IMPAIRED TO HIS SACRED MAIESTIE.

Pleis his Maieftie to figne ane Act to be maid in this Parliament for incorporatioun of Qulitterne, Glenlufs, and Tungland, in the patri-
monie of the Bifchoprik of Galloway, refervand the lyfrent of Mr Wil-
liam Melvill.

That it will pleis his Maieftie to figne ane fignatour of the faid Abacie
of Tungland in favouris of the faid Bifchope.

That his Maieftie will command Sir Robert Gordoun to defift frome

his intruifit poffeffioun, quhilk he hes takin, induring the vacance of the benefice.

That fince his Sacred Maieftie vnderftandis that the unquhile Lord Sanquhar had forcit the perfones of Kynnowe to fet to him the teindis thereof vpon fe small conditionis as ar not able to fustene the Ministerie thair—Thairfoir, that he quhome his Maieftie fall pleis to defigne to be Lord Sanquhar, may be commandit to gif affurance of ane fufficient provifioun for that Kirk, be the ficht and decree of the Archebifchope of St Androis, quha is ordinar of the fame.

SANCTANDREWIS.¹

CLXXXVI.—MR PETER BRUCE, PRINCIPAL OF ST LEONARD'S COLLEGE, ST ANDREWS, TO SIR JAMES SEMPILL.

RYCHT HONORABILL,

Vnderftanding that Mr James Scot, my very gud freind, and fpeciall weil willar off our College off St Leonardis, quhairin your Worship wes funtyme a fcoler,² had writtin to yow requesting yow maift earnifly to interpone your credit att his Majesties hand for purchafing ane mandat to the Lordis off this infant Parliament, to pas ane Act confavit in favour off our College, the copie quhairoff I vnderftand he hes fend to yow and my Secretarie his Deput: itt contenis na thing ather prejudiciall to any man, or quhilk we have nott by his Maiefties awin gift alreddy, albeit nott be fe fufficient rycht as I wald, quhairfor I doubt nott bot his Majestie fall pas itt with out any difficultie, giff ye fall interpone your credit, quhairto I will request yow maift effectounly, baith for the gud will yow carie to this College, and for quhat funevir pleafure or fervice fall ly in my power in any tyme heirefter.

Further, lett itt pleafe yow to refave ane copie off ane Oratione had att our laft Maifteris making, be a young man that is my brother-german, and Regent off our College; quhairin, according to his skill and fhortnes

¹ Indorsed—"Memoiris to his Saerid Maieftie: Dereetit the 23 Sept. 1612."

² Sir James Sempill of Beltrees took his Master's degree at St Leonard's College, St Andrews, in 1581-2.

off tyme quhilk he had to meditat itt, for itt wes not eight dayis, he preffit to stir up the Vniverfitic to a thankfull remembrans off his Majesties liberalitie toward them in furnifing thair Bibliothek with sic stoir off buikis, and to fett furthe his Majesties prais¹ as that tyme culd permitt. Becaus this wes spokin with sum applaus, I tuik a copie off itt, and reviffit itt agane, as ye may see, and caused mend rather the flips off the writter nor the author, bot I culd nott get itt wrettin over agane, becaus the beararis cuming to yow ward cam very laityly to my knowlege, quhairfor I pray yow pas the blotis in gud part, and to tak the panis to reid itt, and giff ye find any pairtis thairoff worthie off his Majesties earis, that ye wald reid them to him; for giff he lyk off itt, ye fall the mair easely obtain our fuit; and however he think off itt, itt will mak him vnderstand quhat is my affection, and the rest off my collegis, to his Majesties service, and clofs his earis aganis sum calumnies that may perhapis cum to them, for quha wantis ewill willaris? Thus ye see how bald I am with yow vpon na desert off myne, yea, scairs vpon aequentans; for that quhilk sum tyme wes, long tyme hes almaist worne itt away; bot your fame that ye ar a weilwiller off all honest men (in the number off quhilk I wald fain be), and the desyre I haue to approve my selff to yow, and to serve yow in quhat ever lysis in my power, makis me as giff I wer your familiar and benefactor, thus hamely to burden yow rather than any vther, notwithstanding I have na scairfite off freindis and gudwillaris att court that wald glaidly be imployit be me in any sic ado off myne; quhairfor I doubt nott ye will satisfie my desyre the mair glaidly, as ye fall find me evir reddy to requyt your kyndnes, giff in deid I may nott yet be a thankfull remembrans, and desyre to lett yow vnderstand how far I think me oblist to yow. Sa reposing vpon your gud will, I rest,

Your W. ever to be commandit to power,

St Andrewis, September 23, 1612.

M. PETER BRUCE.

¹ Mr Andrew Bruce. In "The Muses Welcome to the King's Majestie," in 1617, "Andreas Brusius, Philos. Prof.," addressel 22 lines to the King, "De Bibliotheca a Sereniss. Rege Jacobo Andreapoli erecta," &c. He succeeded as Principal of St Leonard's College, in 1630; and died "of the pest," in 1647.—(Baillie's Letters, vol. iii. p. 6.)

CLXXXVII.—MR WILLIAM COWPER, MINISTER OF PERTH, TO
KING JAMES.

MOST WORTHIE KING AND GRATIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

As it is not the dewtie of ony subiect wittinglie to rest vnder your Hienes miscontentment, so farre les do I think it myne, to quhom your Maiettie hes alwaie bene ane Abimelech indeed, that is, both a father and a King. Quhat myne enemies misreported of me I knew not, till my Lord of Scone informed me. Of him I learned that I am accused of speeches quhilk I never vttered; for how ever in your Hienes prefence I wes wont freelie [to] vtter my weak iudgment in sic Church matters as then wer disputed, yet, in your Maiesties absence, he liues not can charge me with ony word, privat or public, other then favored of a dewtifull affection toward your Hienes, quhairin I dar appeale all that ever heard me: and as for my deedis, I with my vnfreindis wold beare witness for quhilk of thame it is they wold ston me out of your Maiesties gracious remembrance. I haue, in our most public assemblies, affirmed that of your Maiettie, quhilk Jeremie spak of his king: "Ye ar the breath of our nostrithrilles." Your Hienes life mony tyme hes bene persecuted for loue of that truth quhilk we preach. Quho then can think that your Maiettie wold destroy that religion for quhilk your Grace hes bene so oft in danger of death; or quhat is he, that knowes his dewtie to God, can willinglie be vndewtifull to your Maiettie? But now, Sir, sic is the change of our brethrens disposition (some of thame) that we can not in the meekest manner exhort thame to temperance of life, to reteyne the old Ecelesiastique government, and content thame selues with that quhilk your Hienes and Generall Assemblies hes geuen thame, but vpon this still we ar accused, as vndewtifull subiectis to your Maiettie; and quhat other vnfreindis I haue for other respectis, I am not ignorant. Thus stand I a losser at all handis, being of some hated already for dewtifull service to your Hienes, if I be also casten of be your Maiettie, through vnderferved acutations of others. I will therefore humble craue that your Hienes sacred care may be to me a cite of refuge against all their persecuting calumnies, and that your Hienes wold

remember the proofes of my gud service done quhen ever I might have occasion; not reflaue misreports of my evill willers. For other things, I say with Mephibofeth, "Seing my Lord the King is in peace, preserved from his enemies, let my Ziba (quhofoever he be) brook not onlie the half, but the haill of all quhatfoenir the King hes geven me. Let the favour of the Lord compaffe yow for ever as a sheild from the malice of your Hienes enemies, and contentions of the people, and let their faces be covered with shame that fekis to bring your Honour to the dust." The Lord preserve your Maiestie long to regne over vs.

Your Hienes loving and humble subiect.

MR WILLIAM COWPER,
Minister at Perth.¹

To the King his most Excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXVIII.—MR ANDREW BOYD, MINISTER OF EAGLISHAM, TO THE
ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW.

MY VERIE HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

I haue seene your Lordship's letter, bearing your motion to his Majestie anent that vacant roume of Argyle² in my favouris, and his Majesties good and gracious mynd toward me. What am I, or what is in me, to procure such royall favour? The report wherof not onlie animates me to suscepe the state I never wisit nor thought of, but after most humble thanks to his Majestie, to multiplie my former supplications for lenth of dayis, and indurancie of his Majesties throne for ever, as also, in that service to be carefull of the house of God, and obedience to all employments of my most gracious Prince in all matters concerning spirituall or ciuil Republique. Bot leaneing this to the prouidence

¹ He was made Bishop of Galloway in the year 1614.

² The Bishop of Argyle died of a cancer in his face, about the middle of January 1613.—(Calderwood's History, vol. vii. p. 176.)

of the Most High, I call your Lordship to mynd of my last letter, eiking this much therunto, that ye never faint in the good cause, bot now most courageoullie setting your self against Papists and sacrilegious persons, the eyes of all men being vpon your Lordship at this tyme, and saying, *Aut nunc aut nunquam*, and so say I. Giff your Lordship returne with successe, a certaine discouragement to all enemies heir to God and our King. If not, I look for nothing bot increas of idolatrie, occasions of all devilish machinations against his Majestie, with contempt of the Spirituall estate in all ranks. Do ye fear any man being in favour with your Prince? I haue shewed your Lordship many a tyme, be word and writt, how I haue wisshed thir maters to come about. Ye know what I meane. I cease with this memoriall. Gif at this tyme Confernatus chance not vpon the buess of gold, Sigismundus shall yett be Liberalis, albeit Confernatus be yett Infortunatus. Bot what mater of your Lordship's *infortuna*, if in the *valubrie* therof wer not a greater *iactura*, which I pray God that his Majestie, *qui solus potest, et primus periclitatur*, may attend vnto.

Your Lordship's, with service,

12 February 1613.¹

A. BOYD.

CLXXXIX.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SACRED SOVERAINE,

It may pleas your most Gracious Majesty: I am ewerie Sessioun heir troubled be the Lord Spynie and his Curatours for that ten thousand merkis, so that I am now almost exhausted, and hes skars moyen to maintein my self so oft in Edinburgh to defend the cause, far les able to pay that dett, and vilbe foreit betyme to retein my self, and nocht to appeir to do your Maiesties service, vnles your Hiennes accustomed mis-

¹ From an old transcript, among Calderwood's MS. collections, by mistake dated 1612. It is marked on the back, "To Glasgow: Spotswood."

record prowyd tymoufly for me. I haiff fett down füm fchort Petitions in a by-fcheet off papar, quhilkis I moft humblye intreat your Majefty to grant and caus be directed, with quhat farder your Majeftes moft accomplifhed wifdome and compaffioun fall think more expedient for vpholding me, your Hienes poore creature, from utter ruine.

The Commiffioners of Peace hes done your Majefty goode fervice within the boundis off Murraye, and may do goode fervice giff thay keipit thair meetingis. They ar becum funquhat more cauld and more cairles. Your Majeftes letter is moft neceffar to valkin thame, with promes of your Majeftes favour, and vthervayes that your Majefty will nocht account tham dewtifull. The nummer is greit, and the Keiper off the Rolls¹ is aged, and vnable to do your Majeftes fervice. Off this I thoct it goode to giff your Majefty advertifement.

Thus in all humility and ferveneye off fpirit, fendng vp my continuall prayaris for the perpetuall increfehe off your Majeftes happie ftate, in all prosperitye and triumphe our all your Majeftes enemies, I beficthe the Kyng off Kynges and Lord off Lordes to preferve your moft excellent Majefty heir and eternallye.

Your moft excellent Majeftes moft humill, obedient,
and moft affectionat fervitour,

AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.

To his Sacred Majeftie,
My moft Gracious Souerane.

CXC.—PETITIONS OF THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

THAT your Majefty wilbe pleafed to wrett to my Lord Chancellor to deale earniftlye with the Earlis off Mortoun and Kyncorne to ceafe and defift from all furder perfuit of the Bifchope off Murraye be law, till your Hienes farder plefour be known, or your Maieftes new direc-

¹ The Laird of Duffus : see next page.

tions; or that the hole mater may be referrit be both parties to your Majestie: and to this effect, that no forder proces off law proceed till Maij next.

That ane letter be direct to the two Erls of Mortoun and Kyncorne to the famin purpose; requyring thame, that thay will cease from all funder perlewing off the B. off Murraye, or, that thay will submitt the famin to your Majestie; and in the meane tyme, that all proces off law continew till Maij next.

That ane letter be direct to my Lord Secretar, to concour with my Lord Chancelar in that famin matter.

That your Hienes will gif direction in wrett to the Thesaurer Deputt to grantt the giffit off the Lord Spynies escheat to any quhom the Bischoppe of Murraye fall choose, and till the said B. be secured of that hole action, and that no part off the said escheat be disponit in favouris of the Lord Spynie or any off his freyndis, till your Majestie be satisfieit ament the ceassing of all action aganis the B. off Murraye.

That directioun be giffin for revising of the names off the Commiffioners off Peace within the boundis off Murraye, that the nummer be retrenchit, and the rolls giffin to sum man more fitt and convenient: the Laird Duffus¹ being now aged and feiklye.

Your Majesties most obedient servitour,

AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.

That your Majesty will direct ten letters to severall Barons, moving thame to plant thair churches, leaving thame vndirected on the bak: And ane to the Erle off Murraye.

CXCI.—HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

RIGHT trait Coulingis and Comfellours, and right trustie and weilbelouit, We greet yow weil: We remember that We gave contentment and satisfiactioun to the late Lord of Spynie out of our awin

¹ William Sutherland of Duffus: he died in March 1616.

cofferis for his furrender of the landis and kirkis quhilkis he held of the Bihoprik of Murray. And he made Ws to beleve that he rested contented, and that he wes to exact no furder frome these quhome We wer to prefer to that benefice. Neuirtheles, being informed that the said Lord, concealing the course quhilk We tuik with him in that erand, he made the present Bifchope of Murray to giff him a band for payment of the foume of Ten thousand merkis to one Mr David Symmer (quhais name he borrowit to that band), before he wald oniewyes secure him in the landis and teindis of the said Bifchoprick: Quhilk foume being conditionat to haue bene payit at certane termes and feuerall proportionnes, the said Bifchop made trew payment of certane yeiris proportionallie. And efter the said Lordis deceas, he tranfactit and aggregit with this Lord Spynies vncler and tutour in his name for the remanent proportionnes of the ensewing yeiris for a certane foume of money payit in hand, quhairypoun he ressauit a full discharge of the said band frome the said Mr David Symmer, in quhais name the sam wes conceaved. And althocht both We and the said Bifchope hes bene in this poynt circumvenit, and that the Bifchop hes made payment to the Tutour in this Lord Spynies name of the foume off fyve thousand merkis, in the sex hundreth and sevin year of God, the annuel quhairroff wald or now have compleitlie payit the haill ten thousand merkis and more, quhairas it wes nevir Our mynd that he fuld have payit ane penny; yit is he still distreffit for the same caus be the said Lord Spynie, vpon ane pretendit assignatioun made to him of the said band be Mr David Symmer, as is weill knawin vnto yow by deductioun of the proces depending thairypoun. The consideratioun quhairroff moved Ws to dispone to the said Bifchope the gift of that ten thousand merkis fallin in Our handis; quhairin, as We vnderstand, thair is sum oppositioun made to the said Bifchope, vnder a cullour of ane anterior gift purchesit of the said Lord Spynies lyverent by Our privyete and knowledge: And quhairas both the giftes ar be way of actioun to be presentit to your consideratiounnes, We have heirby thoct meit to acquaint yow with the policie and circumventioun vseit in this buffines, and thairwithall to signefie vnto yow that it is Our expres will and plefour, that Our gift grantit to the Bifchope of Murray vpoun that ten thousand merkis fall stand in

force, and that he fall haue proces before yow thairvpoun without respect of the vther. For sence We, out of Our awin cofferis, haue well payit for this surrender made be the said Lord of Spynie vnto him, We will not be abused in that poynt, and suffer the said Lord to exact double satisfacioun. And thairfore, willing you to conforme your selffis to Our will and plesour in this mater, quibilk We will iustifie to be agreeable to equitie and iustice, We bid yow fareweill.¹

CXCII.—MR SAMUEL COCKBURN OF TEMPLE TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

Your Sacred Maiestie, of your accustomed gratius fauor ordenarie extendit towards all your faithful subiectis, whereof in my awne particuler I haue had so manie testimonies, will excuse my bauldnes at this tym, forsit be some necessitie, if I presume to interrupt your Maiesteis more ferius and weghtie effeares with the reading of this my humble petitione. Your Maiestie, of your gratius and princelic liberality, for my great peans bestowed in your Maiesteis seruice heir in this cuntry, and dyuers voyages to your Court, grantit vnto me a gift of the escheatis of all such as wer put to the horne for not confirming of Testamentis, wherevith the Bishopis, finding them selues somewhat interest in there particuler, dealt with your Maiestie for the benefeit thereof, and with me for my good will; which, whane I knew to be agreeable to your Maiesteis plesur, wpon some conditions I yealdit vnto. Bot now, of leat, when the Bishopis wer about to haue there gift confirmit, be your Maiesteis Counsel and Officers of your Steat in this Kingdome, thay fand the mater of such importance, and so preiudiciall to your Maiesteis regal authoritie and pouer heir, that in no ways could there graue wilidoms be mouet to assent therto, but to signifie the importance and weght of that buslines to your Maiesteis selfe to determine therevpon. Wherby the houpe of that recompence of my seruice is alto-

¹ Indorsed,—“The copie of the Letter to be brocht down from Court.”

gider takin from me, and I compelit to haue recourse to your Maiefties princelie and gratius fauor. It hes pleft your Sacred Maieftie to employ me in some charges heir of great peane and trauel, without any profeit, and fubiect to the enuye of the greateft, which, notwithstanding in refpect of your Maiefties feruice, I did neuer regard: I take your Maiefties whol Counfel to record of my behaiour and peans in dif-chargin therof. And my efeat wer fuch as might wnderly this burdin without my vter overthrow, I would be forie to importune your gratius Maieftie, and principallie at fuch a tyme. And fo referring the trew report heirof to your Maiefties graue and wyfe Counfel, your Maiefties Trefurer-Deputie, who knawes the whol fteat and Counfelis mynd thereon, I in al humilitie, with my ernest prayer for your Sacred Maieftie and Royel efeat, fhall ever remane,

Your Sacred Maiefties moft loyel and faithful fubiect,

SAMUEL COKBURNE.¹

To the King his Sacred Maieftie.

CXCIII.—THE BISHOP OF ABERDEEN TO KING JAMES.

PLEAS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE :

The Lord Elphingftoun vpon ane Infeftment purcheft from your Majestie of the patronage of the Kirkis of Logie Mar, Glenbuchett, Kildrymmie, and Cabrothe (having formerlie bene the common Kirkis of this Cathedrall of Aberdene), did then acquire taekis alfo of the teyndis of the faidis Kirkis; and nochttheles did never vrge farder nor the auld accuftumat dentie; Bot now efter the reftitutioun of the Bifchoprickis be your Majestie, and Actis of your Hienes Parliament,

¹ This letter has been placed erroneously, by Sir James Balfour, among the Original Letters, under June 1614, as Cockburn died in March that year. In June 1609, an Act was passed, giving the Commissariat and Jurisdiction to the Prelates; but this letter has no doubt a reference to some arrangement of a subsequent date.

the said Lord Elphinstoun, dealland powerfullie with these of the Hie Commishoun, procures by thair actis, chargis of horning aganes me for ratifeing both of patronage and tackis to him of the said Kirkis; Vpon fear whairof, and obedience to your Majesties lawis, efter suirtie tane of sum meane maintenance for service of the cur of the saidis Kirkis as might be had, togidder with my Lord Elphinstounes promeis, for easing of the heretouris by tackis, to mak out the said provisioun, I was then forced to pas the saidis tackis, and allow the said patronage, fair aganes my awin hart, and without any satisfiactioun, as vse is, for the saidis benefitts. Notwithstanding, thinking him selfe feured of the saidis teyndis in siche forme acquired, some of the heritouris within the parochines of the saidis Kirkis hes hewilie merit thame selfis to me and my accessouris, and does complane that with all regour and extremitie he baith persewis thame, and intendis to vplift thair teyndis aganes the said promised ease, whairby they fear ather to be forced to quytt thair rownes to him, or at least to mak thame waft as a forrest, to thair vtter vndoing and putting of mony pair faullis vnder thame to begrie, who were wount to leiwe (althought meanlie) in these Hieland boundis. Quhilk dealing being mater of great greiff to me, and scandale to our Kirk, and harme to this cuntrie, both in the selfe, and in the evill preparatiwe, wald have bene sufficient occasioun to have enforced me to travell to see your Maiesties face anes befor I die, gif not my auld aige onlie, bot also my painfull disease in my feitt this yeir did not necessarlie lett and stay me. Whairfor praves your most excellent Maiestie, according to your Hienes rair and singular wisdome, to provide and send remeid heirto. So praying the Almighty God to grant your Maiestie a longe, happie, and prosperous regne ower ws. Restis, as I think to die,

Yourre Maiesties maist humill servitour and daylie orator,

P. BISHOP OF ABERDEIN.

Aberdene, 1 June 1613.

To the Kingis most Excellent Maiestie.

CXCIV.—THE ARCHBISHOPS OF ST ANDREWS AND GLASGOW TO
KING JAMES.¹

MOST GRACIOUSE SOVERAIGNE,

We refavit your Maiesties letter for suspending the excommunicatioun of the Marques of Huntley, in regard of his satisfiatioun gifin to your Maiestie, and his promise to communicat at his return to Courte. Sir, twiching this, we haif done al that we can; since the tym your Maiestie first requyrit ws to gif him conference, his excommunicatioun hes ben in effect suspedit, and no man debarrit from aecessé to him. Now fence your Maiestie desyres to haif him communicat thair, and that it is absurd, as your Maiestie ryghtly estemis, he suld be admitted to communioun in that Churche, standing heir excommunicat, thair is in our opinioun nothling better then to absolve him before his parting from hence, quiche may be done if he subscryve the Articles and mak publick professioun to stand be the samin, altho his communicating be differrit. May it thairfore pleise your Maiestie to direct him to mak his appearance at St Andrewis, Dundie, or sun fuche publick place for that effect; since it is no way meit that the sam be done in a privat paroche, and we sal so cary the busines as he salbe absolvit, and none conceave offence thairby.

Anent the difference that stood between the B. of Galloway and Mr William Byrnie² for the gift of the Chappel Royal, quich your Maiestie recommendit vnto ws in another letter, we haif so composed it, as the Bischop sal haif the charge of the Chappel, and Mr William sal be provydit of a sufficient stipend, quiche we haif agreit salbe a thousand lib. Scotis, and if the rent thairof wil permit his allowance to be greater, the modificatioun of farder is remittit to us two, be bothe thair consentis. We ar thairfoir to intreat your Maiestie most humbly that the Bischop may be refavit in the place, and command gifin

¹ This letter is wholly in Spottiswood's own hand.

² Successively Minister of Lanark and Ayr; see *supra*, p. 283.

him for establiſhing the ſervice with convenient expedition, as that quiche makis bothe for the gud of the Churche and honour of the Kingdome.

We haif farther agreit that the libertie quiche pleſit your Maieſtie to grant vnto Mr Robert Bruce for returning to his houſe, ſalbe ſent vnto him, and haif accompanyit the ſam with a letter ſubſeryvit be a number of the Biſchopis, qhairin we requyr him ſo to vſe his libertie, as your Maieſtie haif no cauſe to offend with him heirafter, or with vs for our interceſſioun in his behalf; declaring alſo, that we wil not ſuffer the authoritie quiche we haif of God and your Maieſtie in the Churche lawfully eſtabliſchit to be deſpyſit, or callit in queſtioun. Qhat the ſamin ſal worke with him, we leaue to the event.

Thair is ordour takin for eſtabliſhing the Chapteris of Cathedral churchis, and a tym appointed for tham al to meit be tham ſelfis, for renewing ſuche ordour as of longe tym hes ben intermitted. This hes ben meinit be tham al, that qhair of old thai wer provydit of houſis to reſaiſ tham at the Cathedral churche, qhen thai had occaſioun to reſide, and of ſum common landis, qhair of thai maid thair expenſe in publick metingis, al is now alienat and put away, and the dewtyis thairof annexit to the Crown in that woſul Act of Annexatioun. Theſe being of no great importance, wer for the moſt part aſſignit yeirly to the Miniſteris, for ſupplie of thair ſtipendis; but now the reſaveris of the rentis haif chargit for the ſamin, as belonging to your Maieſtie, and not falling vnder the modificatioun of ſtipendis, our humble ſupplicatioun to your Maieſtie is, in that regard, that til a better tym offer for reſtoring the ſaidis houſis and landis to the Chapteris be publick Act, a command may be giſin to the Theſaurar Deput and vnder reſaveris, to ſuffer the Chanonis, in thair ſeveral Chapteris, to vpliſt and collect the ſamin to thair proper vſe; and qhair the ſewis or alienationis ſal be fund invalid in law, that the Theſaurar and Advocat wil concurre as thai ſalbe informed for reducing the ſam; and ſo we ſal haif ſum gud beginning, and our Miniſterie be incuragit to proced in that quiche remainis.

Thir being the principal thingis handlit in this meting, we thought it our dewty to impaire the ſam to your Maieſtie, remitting al to your

Hienes wyfe and royal cenfure; and now, with our prayeris to Almighty God for your Maiefties faif and happie eftate, we humbly tak our leave.

Your Maiefties moft humble fervantis,

SANCTANDROIS.

GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, the 10 of July 1613.

To his moft Sacred Majeftie.

CXCV.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SACREID SOUERANE,

May it pleis your moft gratius Maieftie: Your Hines letter wrettin in my faouris to the Erll of Dunfermling, your Maiefties Chancellor of this Kingdome, was varie acceptable, according to the directioun quheroff his Lordfchip hes bene varie faourable to me, and travellit erneslie withe the Erllis off Mortoun and Kyngorne, curaturis to this Loird Spynie, to hane furcaffit from perfewing me vpon that band of ten thoufand markis extortit from me be the laft Lord Spynie. Bot the Chancellor culd prevaill nothing at thair handis; and albeit your Hines vther letter, direct to the faidis two Erllis, was deliuerit in thair awin handis, and red be them, yit they haue not bene muiffit lithertillis to fehaw me ony courtesfie, at your Maiefties defyr, bot continues ftill in perfewing me heir in Edinburgh, to my gryt hurt and diftraction from my calling, efteming your Hines letter bot *Rogatus rogo*. And thairfor, in sted of all vther confort in that erand, I am compellit to retein me agane to your Maiefties clemencie and pitie; and that for your Maiefties vtheris letteris to be fend to my Lord Chancellor, making mentioun that your Hines hes juft occafioun to remember the two Erllis mifregaird of your Maiefties interceffioun for me, your Hines poor fer-

nitour, and notwithstanding that my Lord Chancellor wald deall fill with them, ather to surceas from all perfute of me heireftir till this Loird Spynie cum to perfyt age, or vtherwayis, that the hole mater may be submittit be boithe pairteis to your Maieftie allennerlie, or to certane of the Loirdis off Sessioun, the two Erllis taking burding for the pupill: or last, in case of ther refusall, that your Maieftie, by authoritie, wald be pleisit to dischaarge all farder calling and perfewing of me befor the Loirdis of Sessioun till your Maieftieis farder plefur falbe knawin. My frait is grytt, and no vther can help me. Only your Maieftieis gratus countenance, in your Hines gratus and princely directiounes to my Loird Chancellor is able to help, togidder withe your Hines particular missives, one to my Lord President, the vther to my Loird Secretar, and the last to my Loird Aduocat, quho, being all jointlie and of one mynd, by your Maieftieis good plefur send to them, may happilie gett me sum eas off this intollerable burding. Now the God of all blissing multiplye all fortis of blissingis vpon your Hines and your royall [posteritie] heir and eternally.

Your Majesteis poore and distressed
yit most affectionat feruitour,

AL. B. OFF MURRAYE.

Edinbrughe, the tucntie fourt off Julij 1613.

To the King his moift Excellent Maieftie.

CXCVI.—THE EARL OF WIGTOUN TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS AND DREAD SOVERAYNE:

At my laite being at your Heighnes Courte, the petitionn preferred by me for the Kirk of Glenquhome was gratiously acceptit by your Maieftie, the same Kirk being formerly giftit by your Heighnes to me, whiche nocht the les in purchessing of the Titular's consent to the

famin, did stand me at no les raite then ten thousand poundis Scottis, as I did particularly signefie to your Maiestie, who then, out of your Heighnes most gracious and bountefull dispositioun, wes pleased to promeis that ather a courfeould be tane for securing wnto me the Patronage of that Kirk, acyured by me at so deir a pryce, or then sufficient satisfactioun and recompenseould be gewin me for the famin: And now, seing John Gib hathe of lait trowblit me with perquite in the law, and heathe recovred decreit aganes me, I will most humblye intreat your Maiestie to be pleased, according to your Heighnes promise, that ordour be gewin, as ather I may rest secured in my possessioun of the said Kirk, without farder trwble, in my peaciable injoying thairof, or then that your Maiestie wald direct down warrand for delyuerie of some dew recompance and satisfactioun to me for thê famin. Thus, humble crawling pardone for my bauldnes, and praying Almychtie God to increse your Maiesteis happines with long and happie regne ower ws, and blissitnes elfwheir, I taik my leif, and as I am most bound, fall euir remane,

Your Maiesteis most humble serwand and subiect,

WIGTOUN.

Cummernald, the 6 October 1613.

To the King his most excellent Maieste.

CXCVII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED AND GRACIOUSE SOVERAIGNE,

I relavit your Maiesties letter the first of November, commanding me to declare anent Sir Jhon Sken and his childrenis effairis, on whose fyd the agrement fayled, and particularly if the twentic day of Julj last wes precislie appointed for agrement of al materis controvertit amongest tham, and conditionn maid, that if the Father fulfilled not

fuche thingis as wer on his part defyrit, Sir James fuld be fre of al conditionis maid to his brother, Mr Jhon. Pleife your Maieftie, the truthe is, that haling relavit your Maiefties letter to deal with tham for thair agreement in May last, I travellit to haif it done according to these groundis quiche wer layit be your Maiefties fervant, Jhon Murray,¹ to tham bothe, at thair being at Courte, quiche war thir: That Sir James fuld gif his father furtie for sex and threttie hundreth merkis Scots, to be payit to him yeirly during his lyftym, and that without ony condition to be done be the father; and for Mr Jhon his brother, that how fone he fuld obtein Sir James to be infest in the landis of Curreyhil, and ane sex thowfand merkis, lying vpon Saltoun, and mak payment to him of the fowm of twelf thowfand merkis, that fa foone he fuld haif the office of Clerkfhip provydit him. Qhen I preafit Sir Jaanes to gif his father furtie, he excusit him self that he culd not do it, vnlesse he wer infest in Curyhil and that sex thowfand merkis. As I laborit the Father to infest him, he refusit, except his brether wer satisfieit; so I wes forcit to leave that point, and se if I end agre the brether. In treating with tham, a quettioun fel in, who fuld pay the father his last yeiris dewtie. Sir James alledgit that he fuld haif twelf thowfand merkis clear, and if he wer compellit to gif his father sex and threttie hundreth, it wald diminifche so muche, and conditionis fuld not be kept to him. Mr Jhon his brother answerit, that it wes reason his father fuld be payit furthe of the profit of the office be tham that had brukit it; and for him self, he wald pay the twelf thowfand merkis appointit be Jhon Murray. Finding this stay, I defyrit tham to referre the mater to the said Jhon his declaratioun, and a wryting to be sent to Jhon be eche of

¹ In a letter from Sir Thomas Hamilton to John Murray, 26th August [1613], he says, "My Lord of Glasgow hes trauelled cairfullie to agrie Sir James Skene and his father and brother, and hes promised to aduerteis yow, be his letter, of the conclusion thairof." —(Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 128.) Sir John Skene of Curriehill, in 1611, on account of his age and infirmity, intending to resign his situation of Clerk-Register in favour of his son, Sir James Skene, sent him to London, with a letter of resignation, to be used only if the King should be willing to admit him. He was induced, however, to give in the resignation, and accept a seat on the bench as an ordinary judge, when the more lucrative office was conferred on Sir Thomas Hamilton.—(Spottiswood's History, p. 517; Senators of the College of Justice, pp. 234, 254.)

tham, qharin thai fuld referre tham felsis in that point to his determination; qliche thai wer content to do: And becaufe the father was impatient of al delay, I travellit earnestly with him to grant me the twentie day of Julj, til I mycht refais anwer in the point questioned betwen the brether from Jhon Murray, and at that tym I promisit to mak end of the busines: After earnest entreatie, I obtenit his gud wil for that continewatioun, and this wes the cause of appointing the twentie of Julj, at qliche day I assurit the Father, according to the hopis I had, that materis fuld be endit to his contentment; but to Sir James or his brother I maid no condition, nor had not occasioun to mak ony.

In the mean tym, I travellit with Sir James, that he fuld pay the yeiris dewtie to his father; and if Jhon Murray determined the question on his syd, the money fuld be repayit be his brother to him; quhairvnto he yeildit. About the 20 of Julj, Jhon Murrays anwer returnit, declaring that Sir James fuld pay the yeiris dewtie to his father. Sir James, thocht not wel contentit with the anwer, sayit he wold acquiesce; then I pfeit Mr Jhon to obtain his brother infest in the landis of Curryhil, and the sex thowfand merkis of Saltoun. He anwerit, that his father wold infest him in Curryhil, but not in the sex thowfand merkis, qliche wes disponit to another brother. I requyrit him to se that recompenfit otherwyse, becaufe this wes a part of Jhon Murrays decret. He anwerit, that he wes in hope, be Jhon Murrays freindschip, to ben repossessit to his place of hornungis be the Clerk of Register, and if that wer done, he wold fulfil conditionis, otherwyse he culd not, without vndoing him self. We spendit in this sunn sex or seven dayis.

Perfaving great difficulties to compone matteris betwen the brether, I dealt with Sir James, that he wold satisfie his father in giffing him securitie for his yeirly dewty, and for al other thingis tak his hafart of his fateris gud wil; quhairvnto at last he yeildit, and namit sunn seven or eight cationeris with him in the band, qliche I gaif his father, and he wes thairwith content. Qhen the band wes in forming, the President, be occasioun of a complaint maid to him anent the delyvering of a bil, meant to the Lordis, that thair culd be no order, sa lang as one of the

number of Sessioun had the command of that office, and vrgit muche the repaying of this; qhairvpon Sir James him self, and other freindis, defyrit me to speak his brother, and craif his aufwer, qhither or not he wold accept the place vpon the conditionis. The Sessioun rose a day after or two, and being to go towardis St Androife for sum effairis, I kept a meting betwen tham in Sir James garden at Edinburgh: William Creichtoun of Ryllill wes with me, and ane Forbes, a freind of thairis. Mr Jhon wes lothe to vndertak for the sex thowfand merkis of Saltoun. I prefit him earnestly to do it, and that tryft left materis to his advyement vntil the fyve and twentie of Auguft; at qhiche tym, meting at Edinburgh, Mr Jhon declarit we wold fulfil al conditionis, and for the sex thowfand merkis of Saltoun, qhiche his father could not be indncit to gif Sir James, he fuld pay him other sex thoufandis, on this maner, that is, releif the landis of Curryhil of four thowfand merkis with qhiche burthen Sir James fuld ever acceptit the sam, and mak him furtie for other twa thowfand at the deceafe of his father and mother. Sir James stood a qhyl, that he wold haif no other sex thowfand than that of Saltoun; but qhen I had declarit him how this wold be thoecht very vnreasonable dealing, he left it, and feliew himself content with that point. Then we talkit of the twelf thowfand merkis, and how it fuld be payit: Sir James prefit instant payment: Mr Jhon offerit furtie to the term. At last, becaufe Sir James wold not resigne the office without the money wes numerit, Mr Jhon maid offer of the sam presently: then I thoecht al had been endit. I inquiryrit Sir James if thair wes ony more to be done or spoken of: he said, nothing but sum particularis that he and his brother wold talk of amongest tham selfis, qhiche fuld tak no money from him. We fuld haif met the morn after and concludit, but Sir James excuifit him self that he wes diseasit, and sent his gudfather and sum other freindis to mein his eace, and request me to be freindly. I told tham, my travelis wer only be your Maiefties command, that I had procedit after suche maner, and broecht tham to agre in al thingis, nothing reffit but to perform. They told me, Sir James culd not quyt the office without great losse, and wold had me to propone other conditionis, qhiche I eschewit. So persaving the schift, I prayit tham to maif him to gif his father securitie, else I wold mak my report

to your Majestie as I wes commandit, and for the brether, I wold leif that busines to another tym. They said he fuld. When I lukit to haif the band subferyvit be him and his cationeris, thai returnit and offerit Sir James himself fuld subferyve it; but the cationers culd not tak on the burthen. When I told them it wes no securitie except the cationers subferyvit, thai said, thai wold gif the father securitie during Sir James lyftym, and so longe as he brukit the office, but no longer. I answerit tham, the father behovit to be securit for his tym, qhither Sir James livit or deyit, and if thai fearit to bind tham felfis in this fort, qhy wold not thai counfel him to end with his brother Mr Jhon as thai had agreit, and Mr Jhon wold mak his father securitie?

Finding I culd prevail nothing, nether for the fatheris securitie, nor to haif the agrement maid with his brother perfytit, I went to my Lord Secretary and cravit his advyse, schewing his Lordship the state of materis, reading your Maiesties letter, for I took that with me to him. He advyfit me to requyr bothe parties submit tham felfis to freindis, and to me as him qhom your Maiestie had trustit with the busines. This I did: the father wes content; only becaufe it wes not feuly he fuld submit with his sonne, he said Mr Jhon fuld tak burthen for him, qliche wes thocht sufficient. Sir James defyrit a continewatioun to the fyftent of September, and put me in hope he wald submit, and his freindis schew me the tym wes cravit only to gif sum satisfactioun to his gud-mother, that culd not be movit to agre with the divisioun of the clerkship. I took the submissioun subferyvit be Mr Jhon as taking the burthen from his father, and submitting also for himself, and gaif the father to vnderstand that Sir James wold certainly do the lyk, and that al materis fuld end be decreit the fyftent of September. When the day cam, I fand the submissioun resultit in effect, for thai wold haif me try ane contract betwen the father and Arch^d Jhonstoun, qhen he contractit his sonne with thair dochter, qliche I denyit to enter into as being impertinent to me: and yit, to se if that wold do any gud, I went to the father, and before Sir Jhon Arnot and Sir James Stewart, talkit in that purpose with him. I fand him gif satisfactioun in his answeris, so as it semit thair wes nothing to be requyrit of him, qliche he wes not willing to perform. But seing tham set only to

stay the perfyting of matters agreit betwen Sir James and his brother, I dischargit my self of furder travelling, and told tham, I would inak my report to your Maieitie, quliche I did, thocht not in such particulars as now.

Sire, this is the true procedinge of matteris amongest tham. I wes very careful to haif had tham agreit, specially to haif kept your Maieitie from thair falsebery. I piteit the estait of the aged man, qho wes brocht to the termis of hard necessitie, ether be the vnkyned or incircumspect dealing of his sonne.¹ I lovit the sonne for the gud qualities I saw in him, and often bothe in privat and publick before his freindis entreatit him to rubbe away that blot be his fatheris satisfioun, tho it wer with his worldly losse, and gaif him alle lovinge and freindly, I am sure better, counsellis, then he had from his allya. But they took no place. Sir, I know to tel the truth gettis offense, yit I fear nothing to do it, specially being commandit be your Maieitie; and voyd of al particular affectioun, inclyning to none of tham, God is my witnesse, but as I saw the matter musit me, and to testifie, as your Maieitie requyris me, on qhat syd the agrement saylit: Sir, it saylit on Sir James parte, qho if he had stand to that quliche wes desyrit be him self of his brother, it had been setlit, and your Maieitie not ben trublit, and the blame of this lysis, and at that tym, as I vnderstand, lay vpon his mother in law, whom he fearis to displease.

I beseeche your Maieitie pardon for my long and tediousse discourse, since it is maid to clear thingis to your Maieitie. Praying Almychtie God to blesse your Maieitie with al health and happines, I humbly tak my leave.

Your Maieities humble and obedient fervitour,

GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, the 2 of November 1613.

To his most Sacred Maieitie.

¹ See note to page 316, and to a subsequent letter of Sir John Skene, dated 9th August 1614.

CXCVIII.—THE BISHOP OF MURRAY TO KING JAMES.

SIR,

Pleas your most Excellent Maiesty: According to your Hienes directioun, the Marques of Huntley is cheargit to repaire to Abirdein as place of confyning appointed be your Hienes, bot being informed he intendis to caus sum of his freindis mak a new fwit to your Maiesty to alter the place from Abirdein to Murray, I thoct it neidfull to advertise your Hienes thairoff, that being foirfein, your Maiestye may anfuere thairvnto according to your Hienes greit vifdom. No thing will move him bot frieter dealing. His example dois ill, and his kythbing in Papistry increseis. I houp to do your Maiesty yit sum service in thir quarters, in apprehending sum wther traffiquing preiftis, quha ar nocht idle. I humbly desyr your Maiesty to giue directioun to the Counfell to grant me your Hienes commiffioun, quherby I may mowe vele affected men to serwe your Maiesty in that turne. The last serwiec wes troublefom and coiftly to me, and thay quha did with me receaved na recompence. If it vald please your Maiesty to grant me ane discharge of the taxatioun of the Bischoprik off Murray for thir thre yeirs to cum (it being bot fyve hundreth merkis be yeir), I vald bestow the famin vpon goode fellowis to ferve your Maiesty in this earand. Bot fearing to be tedious to your Hienes, I am contented to abyde your Maiesties goode and gracious pleafour: and so resting vpon your Hienes royall and liberall mynd heiranent, I humbly tak my leiwe, vifching your Maiesty long and continuall prosperitie in this lyff, and eternall blessings heirefter,

Your Hienes maist humble and maist
affectionat seruitour,

ALEXANDER BISCH, OFF MURRAYE.

To the Kyng his Maiestye.

CXCIX.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO JOHN MURRAY.

RIGHT HONORABIL SIR,

I haue now, efter long tyme and muche trubill, trauell, and expensis, agreed finallie withe the Lordis Commiffioners of Parliament and Officers of Estait, as ye will see by the Contract and signator subferybed and signed by the Lordis, and also be tuo letters subferybed be their Lordships, to testife ther consent to his Maiestie and my Lord of Sommerfett: I haue wrettin to Jhone Murray that the famin letters may be delyvered, and that the contract and signator may be signed withe his Maiestes hand and the Earll of Somerfett, and returned to me agane withe all possible diligence. I will therfor, vpon the assurance which I haue of your favour and kyndnes, request yow to furder that busines, and to pack up the same agane when they ar passed, that they may come to me wholl and vnrent, and no way miscarrie. And becaus your owne man Mr Dauid Calendar, whome ye recommended to me, is now Provest of Orkney, and his subfcription and consent necessar, that ye will be pleased to fend for him, that he may subferybe the contract efter it be passed his Maiestes hand and the Thesaurer's. I can seeke nor vse no complementis with yow, and I houpe ye haue not thought me ane counterfute or dissembling man. Try and proue me for your self or your freind, and be assured ye may command me to my vttermost to serue yow. So committing this my greatest busines to your credit and cair, I commend yow to God his blessingis, and retts,

Yours in all dewtie to serue yow,

J. A. B. OF ORCADS.

Edinburgh, 18 Januar 1614.

To the Right Honorabil his assured and speciall freend, James Douglass, attending his Maiestie for dispatche of the Scottis affairis, at Court.

CC.—THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO KING JAMES.

SIR, MAY IT PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

Ther is now almost ane moneth past since I fend to your Majestie in my Lord Secretarie¹ his pacquet ane Contract subferyued be the right honorable Lordis of your Majestes Privie Counsell, and ane Signatour conforme to the famin in all articles noted be your Majestes Advocat, to be signed be your Majeste, and subferybed be the Earll of Sommerfett, your Majestes Highe Thesaurer of this Kingdome: as also tuo letters, the one directed to your Majeste, the other to your Majestes Thesaurer, bothe of them subferybed be the Lordis, to testifie thair consent and aggrement: All these wer receaved ther in that pacquet be James Douglas, and as yitt ar not returned, for what cause I can not conjectur. I haue ferued this four yeir bygone with no or verie littill commoditie. I haue spent in that feruic my tyme, my strenght, and all the poor meanes which I had: I am now in great deyt, and dayle danger to be charged, arreifted, and incarcerated be my creditoris, and the fuetest fruct whiche I haue tasted of that tree is the deadlie heatred of the Earll of Orcnay, his brether, and fauorers, vttered ther and heer in contumelies, calumnies, and threats of reveng. In all these euillis I must flee to your Majestes fauour and protection, whome I haue ferued faithfullie, in all your Majestes commands and directions, and not vnfructfullie, in all my employments in Church busines; humblie beseiching your most gracious Majeste to signe my contract and signator withe

¹ Sir Thomas Hamilton, in a letter to King James, dated Edinburgh, 14th January [1614], says, "The Bischop of Orkney, having agried with the Counsall anent the Assignation of lands and teyndis to him and his successouris, as ane constant patrimonie to the Bischops of Orkney, is to repaire to your Majestie, and to mak sute for the Patronages and Superiorities; whiche being poyntes rather of authoritie and preeminence nor of profit, ar thought more fit for the Prince, nor ane subject, in these remote Iles: whair of your Majestie may be pleased to consider, and to declare your Royall pleasour to your Counsall."—(Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 96. where the letter is conjecturely assigned to 1613.) It will be seen that the Bishop reiterates these claims in his statement on the 22d of June, *infra*. pp. 333—336.

your Royall hand, that I and my fucefforis may [be] fetled in fome certain eftait and maintenanc. To wreit doune heir that no mor impediment and delay be maid to me in paffing through the feallis, and moft efpecialle that my Lord Thefaurer deput may mak payment to me of the fumes of money according to the accompt fubferybed be the Lordis, for paying my freendis and creditoris, by whose only benevolenc and beneficenc I am, and hes been mantened this long tyme by-gone. Your grations Majeste, in your greatt wifdome, may be pleased to confidder that I am not hable, though I wer neuer fo willing, to endur longer tyme and delay, bot muft needs refigne my vnprofitabill, yea, moft hurtfull titill, and flee to fome corner of the world, to hyd my self from trubill, shame, and miserabill pouertie. Craving pardone for this boldnes, whervnto necessitie hes enforced me, and moft humble befeiching your moft grations Majeste to releue me frome thes vnderferued distreffes, I pray God to delyuer your Majeste from all euill, and to bliffe your moft Sacred perfonc and Royall gouernment, that your Majeste may reigne long in all prosperite heir, and in heavinlie glorie for euer.

Your Majesties moft humble subject and fervand,

Edinburgh, 15 Febr. 1614.

J.A. B. OF ORCADS.

To the King his moft excellent Majestie.

CCL.—EXTRACTS FROM ADVERTISEMENTS SENT TO COURT, OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

xvij *Februarij* 1614.

Sen the last Adverteiment of the thrid of this infant, thair hes no mater worthie of wrytting occurrit heir.

24 *Februarij* 1614.

According to the Kinges Maiesties direction, Sir Johne Skene of Currihill wes of new admitted to his place in Counfell, which he for-

marlie poffeffed, and his Maiefties benefite and penfion granted vnto him wes accordingly paff, allowed, and fubfcrived.

The guard having apprehended Jeane Brown, Lady Garroche, and Maifter Harbert Browne, hir brother, conforme to ane commiffion and warrand granted to thame for that effect, thay war broght in to this burgh fome eight dayes fince, or therby, and committed to warde within the Tolbooth, wher thay now remaine. John Makgill, funtyme Commiffar Clerk of Drumfreis, wes, by the Earle of Abircorne's meanes, broght out of Yrland and exhibite this day before the Counfell: he is lykwife committed to the Tolbooth. And upon the returne of the two Archibifchopes of Sanctandrois and Glasgou, who ar now about there buffines at home, all thir perfones, with Alefon Simfone, who wes fend heere out of England, ar to be examinat.

The exoneration and difcharge granted be his Maieftie to the Laird of Lochinvar, of the fowne of ten thoufand merkes, incurred be him as cautioner for William Douglas, fomtyme of Lincluden, wes this day prefented to the Commiffioners of the rentes, and allowed.

Tertio Martij 1614.

There is ane Act of Counfell paff this thrid of Merche, vpon a motion made be the Archbifhope of Glasgou, who pretendes to have his Maiefties warrand for that effect, ordaineing ane generall celebration of the Communion, to be vniverfalie throughout this kingdome, vpon one day, *videlicet* the xxiiijth day of Aprile nixt to cum: the abfentes ar ordained to be noted, and accordinglie to be perfewed, conforme to the lawes made theranent.

Decimo Martij 1614.

The Bifhop of Orkney compeirand this day before the Counfall, maid a verie haviie regrait how that, for the refpect of his Maiefties obedience and ferwice, he had not onlie fpent the fmall meanis quhilkis, by his goode governament and mannageing, he had acqueyrit in his youth, bot with that had ingadget himfelf and his freindis in grite founes of money, for the quhilkis they wer hardlie put at and fraittat, and his credeit and reputatioun lyik to reffauie ane irrecoverabill wound; And quhairas

the hope of that benefice, whiche his Maieftie had bestowed vpon him, maid him the more frilie to vndergo all thir burdingis, with the weght quhairof he is now prest down; And now, finding no appearance of the settling of him in that benefice, seeing the wryttis quhilk war fend vp to his Maieftie for that caus, some auelit oulkis fyne or thairby, war nocht returned, nor no woord nor anfuere concerning thame, he being loathe to leive any langer in suspence and vncertantie, and vnable to susteine and beare oute that burding and charge, wes constrained to dimitt and furrender that benefice agane to his Maieftie, and haueing his patent in his hand, he be way of dimiffioun and furrender laid the same down vpon the Counfall table by [with] monie protestatiounes that he was not inducet thairvnto by ony diffyk he had to the establisching of the Estait of Bischoppes, and of the course whiche they followit oute in the Churche gouernament; nor yit that he was weriet of his Maiefties service, feing he was perswadit in his awin conscience, according to the light whiche God had given him, that the Estait of Bischoppis had a goode warrand and authoritie from the Booke of God, and that he wald continew in that assurance vnto the end: And as for his Maiefties service, that laik of meanis and not of affectioun maid him vnable, and consequentlie to werie: The Counfall haueing heard him at great length, gaif him many argumentis, quhairby he might rest assured of the continewance of his Maiefties fauour towardis him; and tuiching the furrender and dimiffioun maid be him, they tauld him, that the accepteing of that dimiffioun was not in thair power, bot restit fullie in his Maiefties awin persone; and they intreated him patientlie to abyde his Maiefties goode lafer anent the sending down of these wryttes, feing he knew that his Maiefties otheris important and princelie effairis could not admit tymes and seasons anfuerrabill to menis humouris in the dispatche of thair adois and buslines.

Maister Samuell Cockburne, Sherriff Principall of Edinburgh, is depairtit this lyfe,¹ whairof his Maieftie wald be acquent, to the effect

¹ See *supra*, p. 308.—Sir Alexander Hay addressed the following note to John Murray, from Edinburgh, 8 August [1614]:—

SIR.—I mon humblye entreate your fauour to this gentleman, the sone of a very honest father, goode Mr Samuel Cockburne. He hathe something wherein to move his

his Maieftie may mak chofe of fome vther to fupplie that feruice. Direction is gevin in this meane tyme to the Deputtis to continew in the adminiftrationn of that office, quhairthrow the leiges be not frufrat of iuftice.

Decimo quinto Martij 1614.

The Thefaurer Deput haiffing broght the Bifchope of Orkney befor the Counfall, vpoun fome errouris alledged to be in his laft compt, whilkis ar hurtfull and preiudiciall to his Maieftie, the Counfall hes deput fome of thair number to conuene this afternoone with the Bifchope and Thefaurer, and to hear the reafonis and groundis whairvpoun the Thefaurer impugnes the comptis, and to draw thame to fome conformitie and poynt. The Bifchope hes waued a commiffione, whilk is granted for his repairing to Orknay, and intrometting with the rentis and dewiteis affigned to him for his prouifione, with conditione that yf the dewyteis exceed the fowme of aucht thoufand merkis, that the Bifchope falbe exemptable for the fuperplus, and yf they be within the fowme foirlaid, after a trew and perfyte compt hard thairupoun, that the Bifchope falbe fatiffieit accordinglie.

xxij Junij 1614.

The Archiebifchope of St Androis being adverteiffit frome the Campheir, that numberis of Papeiftis doeth refort frome all partis to the Campheir, and thair attendis the commoditie of fchipping for thair tranfporte from thenfe to this cuntry, he maid relatione thairof to the Counfaile; whairupone a proclamatioune is paff and publeiffit, prohibeit-ting the hamebringing of any paffingeris frome the Campheir, quhill firft the paffingeris receive a teftimoniall frome the Minifter of the Scoittis

Maieftie: It is alreddy granted in his fatheris tyme, and only desyreth a new warrant for the dischairgeing of it. I craive pardoun for my boldnes, haueing nothing for apologie, bot that I sall evir to laft breathe

be reddly to ferve you.

ALEXR. HAY.

To his very hono^u. and speciall freynd,
Mr John Murray of Dundreynane,
of his Ma^{ties} Bedchamber.

Kirk at Campheir,¹ that thay ar professouris of the trew religioun pre-fentlie professit, and be law establisht within this Kingdome, and that thay do hant the kirk and fermonis.

28 *Julij* 1614.

According to his Maicsties derecetioun anent the confyned Ministeres of Fyiff, thay ar releevd of thare confyning.

There is a proclamatioun lykwyfe sett oute againes dronkardes, conforme to the act of the Synode of Sanctandrois.

CCII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS [TO THE MAGISTRATES
AND COUNCIL OF PERTH.]

RIGHT HONORABLE AND LOVING BRETHREN,

After remembrance of my dewtie to you all, ye ar not ignorant that the place of your Ministerie,² formerlie possessed by my Lord Bishop of Galloway, is now vacand, and the care of the prouision thereof lyeth chiefly vpon me. And thairfore, being bond in conscience, and fraited with loue and affection towards yow, I haue thocht gud to request yow, that ye wald tak that matter to heart, and adwise vpon the man whom ye wold haue to supplie his rowme; for I haue conferred with his Lordship, and I find be him that he is indifferentlie disposed to see his rowme traicked with some godlie learned man that best may serue yow. I haue no vther intencion but to admitt to that ministerie the man whome, efter advice, ye find fittest for yow: and think not, be any tergieruation, to

¹ Mr Alexander McDuff, minister of Newburn in Fife, was appointed, in 1613, Minister of the Scots Congregation at Campvere, the Staple Port in the United Provinces for Scotland. His nomination to that charge was approved of by King James, and by "the Right Reverend Father in God, George Archbishop of St Androis."—(Appendix to Dr Steven's History of the Scottish Church, Rotterdam, p. 290.)

² This letter was evidently addressed to the Magistrates of Perth, although no address is given in the contemporary "Chronicle of Perth," in which it is inserted: See p. 15 of the volume printed by James Maidment, Esq., as a contribution to the Maitland Club, 1831. 16.

efcape the planting of ane other man, and that with all diligence. Affure yourfelfe, that nather the Kings Majestie (who muft haue his Royall confent in your planting), neither I, your ordinar, nor my Lord of Galloway, ane confcience [confcientious] and reuered Prelat, will fuffer yow longer to be defolate of ane Paffour. Thus, I both requeaft and requyre you, that ye fend your Commiffionars to our Synod, quhilke is to be holden heir vpon Twefday and Wednefday nixt, that ordour may be tane of your prouifion. Injoye your priuilege, in God's name, as the fecond burgh both of the Kingdome and Diocey, and ye fall find me to affift you be my counceill and authoritie to my vttermoft, to obtain aither ane vpon whom ye fall fett your eye, and [or] to haue ane lyk [lyte] of many, of quhilke ye may mak choice. Lone makis me to wrytt thus, and the confcience of my calling makis me to be thus peremptorie. I fend my haftie falutation to you all, and to the gud communitie. The grace of our Lord Jefus Chrifft be with you all. Amen.

I reft
Your very louing and kynd Brother,

SANCTANDROIS.

Sanctandrois Caftle, 26 Apryl 1614.

CCIII.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERANE,

It pleafted your moft excellent Maieftie to command me to attend vpon ane actioun depending before my Commiffaris, betwix Thomas Creichtoun and Jean Monypenny, dochter to the vniquhill Laird of Pilrig. Vpon informatioun to your Maieftie that the Commiffaris difagreit among themfelues, I fat with them in judgement, and caufit produce to me the proces, and efter reading thereof I tuke their votes, who vniformelie fand both the lybell relevant and lawfullie provin be the depofitioun of the partie perfewer, to whois oath of veritie it wes referrit be Thomas Creichtoun, the partie defender, efter that the per-

fewer had deferrit it to his oath. Efter reafoning, I inclyned alfo to their opinion, whill I be better informit. I broght them alfo before my Lord Chancellor, Secretary, Thefaurer Deputy, and Advocat, who in their prefence alfo declaired their vniformitie and conftancie in their advyſement; but becaus your Maieftie had once directit me in this caufe, I haue fent vp heirwith the proces, which is very ſhort, that your Maieftie, confidering of it be your ſelfe, or be any other whome your Maieftie ſhall appoynt. may fend ſuch commandement to me and my Commiffaris as may be a warrand, be conſcience and juſtice, to make ws to alter our opinions, or vtherwiſe to giue me and them ſuch aſſeſſouris be your Maiefties royall authoritie as will do in that matter, according to juſtice, which is your Maiefties proper and vnſeparable vertue.

I and the remanent Prelats wrote lately to your Maieftie, bot hes receaved no anſwer, whereof we marvell greatly, ſince the matters wer fo important. The packet wes directit to Johne Murray. I commit your Maieftie in perſone and eſtate to Godis protectioun and bleſſing. I reſt,

Your Maiefties moſt humble ſubiect and ſervitour,

SANCTANDROIS.

CCIV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

We being this day at ane meiting and conference with the Archiebiſhop of St Androis and the Commiffaris of Edinburgh, anent that actionn and caus recommendit be your Maieftie to ws, concerning Johne Monypenny and Thomas Creichtoun. After that we had putt that mater to ane poynte, the Archiebiſhop declairit vnto ws, that thair is ſome actionis concerning the privilegis of the Archiebiſhoprik of St Androis, depending betuix your Maiefties Advocat and him befor the Sellioun, whairin, althocht he preſometh to haif law and reaſoun on his fyde, yitt in regard of the exceiding grite fauouris, whilkis fra tyme [to tyme] he hes reſtauit of your Maieftie, in preferring and advancing him to that

estate, honour, and dignitie, whiche he now inioyeth, he is so far tyed and bundin to your Maieftie, in most humble dewyteis of deuotioun and affection, that he can not pefome to be hard in iudgement, nor to enter in termes of contestatioun with your Maieftie: And whereas some few yeiris ago he had freele, in face of Parliament, submittit vnto your Maieftis self thir materis contrauertit, with this prouiso, that afoir ony thing wer decernit thairin, your Maieftie shold first heir him selff, he is content (yf so be your Maieftis pleasour) to stand to that submissioun. But becaus the same is limitat and conditionall, importing a necessitie that bothe he and your Maieftis Aduocat be hard to pleade that mater in your Maieftis presence, whilk hardlie can be done, in respect of mony your Maieftis most important and princelie affairis and adois, whilkis will not admitt tyme nor laser to attend this busynes, he is willing to submitt him self to ony whome it shall pleis your Maieftie to delegat and nominat (the Thesaurair and Aduocat, who, in respect of your Maieftis interesse as his partyis, onlie except.) We haueing at lenth hard him heirupoun, and finding, by his discourseis, that he is most vnwilling and loathe to be a contradictor in iudgement vnto your Maieftie in this poynte, we haif thocht meete, that the actionis *hinc inde* concerning this mater fall rest and sleip, till we vnderstand your Maiefties will and pleasour heiranent, and whateuir it shall pleis your Maieftie to direct and command we shall accordinglie follow oute and obey. For yf your Maieftie shall not be pleasit to allow of this delegatioun, the Archiebishop wilbe confraned againis his will to abyde the course of your Maieftis lawis in these materis. And so, with our hairy prayeris vnto God, recommending your Maieftie and your royall progenie to his diuyn proteccioun, we rest

Your Maieftis most humble and obedient subiectis and seruitouris,

Edinburgh, 7 Junij 1614.

To the King his most Sacred and
excellent Maieftie.

AL. CANCELL^s.

BINNING.

JO. PRESTOUN.

S. W. OLIPHANT.

CCV.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY OF ELIEBANK TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUVERANE,

The workis of the Silwer Myndis¹ being now fo far advanced that the workimen haif begunne to land fume metall, altho far inferiour to the expenfes that the wudirtakarīs beftow thairvpon, it is needffar your Maieftis plefour touartis the electione aither of the tent part of the mettale, or the threttie part of the filwer efter it be fynned vpon thair expenfes, be knawin. Sir William Alexander² hes a warrant to be paff your Maieftis hand for this effect, and I houpe your Maieftie will mak choiee of your proportione efter it be fynned, becaus thair is probabilitie of greiter benefeit that way, nor be reffaving of the mettall, to be fynned at your Maieftis charges. The electione beand maid, I fall do my dewtie by taking vpp your Maieftis part exactlie.

Your Maieftie hes a letter fent frome the Counfell, concerning fume queftione that your Maieftis Aduocat and myfelf hes with the Archbifchope of Santandrois, for the priuledge of Regalitie acelamed be him vpon the lands pertaining to the Prior of Sanctandrois; whairnent, and auent fume wther queftiones of the lyk nature, it is defyred that your Maieftie wald be pleadit to appoynt fume of your Cownfell and Seflione to confider and determine: He declynes the Advocat and myfelf as parteis. The Chancelour, Secretar, Prefident, Clerk of Regifter, and gene your Maieftie wilbe pleadit to adioyne any wtheris with thame, ar weil informed of the buffines, and fo wilbe the fitteft perfones to be employed, gene fo be your Maieftie find it to be donne. I declynie to haif any queftione with the Archbifchope, gene materis may be fetled in a peaceble maner, and fo hes left of all perfuit of law, till your Maieftis grations plefour be knawin heiranent. Swa. witching your

¹ The Silver Mines of Bilderstone, in Linlithgowshire.

² Of Menstrie, afterwards Secretary of State, and author of the "Monarchie Tragedies." He was raised to the Peerage, by Charles the First, in 1630, and was advanced to the Earldom of Stirling in June 1633.

Maieftie a long and healthfull lyffe, with all happines and contentment,
I reft,

Your Sacred Maiefteis moft humble and faithfull feruand,

G. MURRAY.¹

Edinbrught, the 9th of June 1614.

To the Kingis moft Sacred Maieftie.

CCVI.—INFORMATION TO THE KING HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE,
FROM THE BISCHOP OF ORKNEY, ANENT THE YEIRLIE RENT OF
THE LANDIS DESIGNED TO HIM AND HIS SUCCESSORS.

SIR,

May it pleis your Sacred and moft Gracious Majestie to confider thefe few and fehort Articles, whiche I have upon my knowledg and tryall fett doune trewlie, vnder my hand, according to your Majesties command and lait direction.

1. Firft, it is of veritie that the Rentall whiche I delyuered to your Majesties officers is the laft, beft, and moft perfect that ever was in Orckney,² conforme to whiche all the takifmen of fenerall Ifles and parifhes had ther particular rentallis given to them, fubfcrvued be the Earll.

2. It wes tryed and reported be the Clerk Register, Sir Henrie

¹ Sir Gideon Murray held for many years the office of Treasurer-depute of Scotland, and had the entire direction of the revenues, which he managed so well, that, besides keeping the royal residences and fortresses in excellent repair, he was enabled to defray the expenses of the King's visit to Scotland in 1617. See an interesting note respecting Murray, at page 217 of "Letters and State Papers of the Reign of James VI."

² Bishop Law's Rental, in July 1614, is given in the "Rentals of the Ancient Earldom and Bishoprick of Orkney, collected by Alexander Peterkin," p. 116—149, Edinb. 1820, 8vo.

Wardlaw, Archibald Primrois, and James Bailzie (who had direction from the Lordis), that all the rent of the landis designed to me wes not equiualent to the Thriddis and eight thowfand markis contracted to be payed to me be the Earll of Oreney.¹

3. Whereas it is objected by my Lord Thefaurer Deput, for the faithfull discharg of his seruic, that the rentis of these landis being counted according to the takifmen countis and payment, wil exceed the proportion of the Thriddis and money addepted to me: yitt ther is no materiall difference, so far as I can try, betuix the Rentall and ther countis, except in thre, or rather tuo chalders teind in the parish of Stromnes, whiche belongis justlie to the Subehantor, and cam laitlie to the Earll his possession, nor be vsurpation and violenc than good right.

4. And therfor, howsoeuer the rent of these landis falbe counted, eyther according to the rentall or according to the takifmen charg and exoneration, the summa therof, uithe all the few maillis of the landis of Orekey referred to me (and no deduction of lyfrent pensions being maid), fall not furmont eight thowfand markis beynd the Thriddis, as I haue tryed be just calculation.

5. Bot it is alledged, secondlie, that the girsomis of the landis assigned will euerie yeir be worth fyue hunder fourte sex pundis beynd the rent.

God knowis that I know not, nor can I to this day learne the treuthe therof: This muche I am informed, and it is very credible, that the Earll did masterfullie impose and rigouroufle exact these thre yeir girsoums vpon euerie pennie land attour the fermes, to the great dameag of the poor and grinding of ther faces, whose patterne I purpose not to imitat.

6. Bot lett it be granted that the rent of the landis, withe ther girsoums, be fyve or sex hunder pound nor may countervalue the Thriddis and eight thowfand marks:—

I houpe that your most Gracions Majestie, who is now to lay ane new foundation for the Bischoprie of Orkney, who hes been so liberall and bountifull to other Bischopis, will fauorable consider my travellis,

¹ The "Contract betwixt Patriek Earl of Orkney and Mr James Law, Bishop of Orkney," dated 21st January 1607, is printed in the Appendix to Peterkin's Rentals, p. 88.

trubles, and great losses whiche I haue sustened thir nyne yeiris bygone, and provyd so for my successors, that they, in these remotest places, may be habile bothe to live honorable at home, and serve your Maiestie abroad, as falbe fitting for ther dignite; especially for these Refons:

First, Seeing all the Archbishops and Bishops in Scotland haue, by the properties of ther patronie, many casualties, I hope none fall be able to move your Maiestie to allot to me and my successors the casualties of poor parsons for ane part of our set rent.

Secondlie, The rents, fermes, and teindis of the landis designe must be subject to the burdingis of taxations, and other impositions, without relieff of sewars (for ther is not aboue four in my knowledg), or takemen of teindis (for the teindis ar disponed as ane part of the rent), and all other Bishops, besyd ther properties and casualties, hes relieff of ther vassals and takemen.

Thridlie, Your Maiestie wold be pleased to consider, that the rent of the landis will neuer be payed compleitle in one yeir; yea, many yeirs hes been, and may be, wherin the half or tuo part may not be payed.

And if your Maiestie pleas to impar my condition, I had rather haue fevin thousand markis of good payment, and securitie for it, then the rente and giftings of all the land designe. And therfor equitie requyres that the parsons and casualties be allowed to supplie and support the defect of yeirly payment and burdingis of the rent and service.

Fourtly, I will humble beseeche your gracious Maiestie to ponder how muche the Benefice itself, I and my successors ar hurt and damnified by this new fundation, and the hard conditions therof:—

I must now resigne the Superiorite of all landis feued to the Earll, and some others, with the casualties therof.

The Teindis of all the saidis landis, which be tyme might haue been recouered.

The Patronages of threttie or may benefices, great and small, besyd the Vicarages: a thing most hurtfull to me, and hinderfull for planting desolat and waite kirks.

I will not mention to your Maiestie the Regalite, wherof I haue tuo or

three charters given be your Maiesteis predecefforis, frome King James the Third.

Thefe Privileges and prerogatives belonged be all good right to the Bifchopis of Orkney: wer difponed to me be your Maieffe, ratified in Parliament, and I in poffeffion of them; and now, I fall haue nothing in recompense of them bot ane racked rent, vnable to be payed yeirle, and gifsones affigned for ane part therof.

As for the landis of Greenwell, whiche ar efemed to be worthe ane hunder xxvj pundis mor than they pay presentlie, they ar the kyndle poffeffion of Edmond Sinclar and his fon, for the old rent and teind whiche is rentalled. They ar clamed as properte be Edvart Stewart, bafe fon to the last Earll of Orkney. They ly in the hart of the landis of Holme difponed to me. And if no better may be, I am content to examb them withe landis in St Olais parish.

Ther is no other thing objected which needeth my answer.

If it fall pleis your most Gracious Maieftie, vpon the confideration of thir Articleles (whiche I haue sett donne trewle and fo brefle as I could, fearing to weary your Maieftie), to difpon the landis, withe the rentis, gifsones, and casualties, as is contracted alreddie, and to command the famin to be sent to your Maieftie, to be figned, I fall gladlie continew.

Bot if your Maieftie falbe moved to put me in worfe estait and condition than was contracted to me be the Earll, and to give me no comfort, nor help, nor fetling, for my losses and trubles, whiche I haue patientlie and constantlie indured in your Maiefties service thir nyne yeiris bygon, then I will beg most humble pardon and fauour rather to religne my office and maiesce, yea, and my natiue foyll, then withe fuche diferedit, trouble, hurt, and uncertante, to continew on half yeir longer in it.

Bot bearing my self in the best houp that your Maieffe will now, efter to long tyme, cyther fettle me in the land, withe all the casualties thereof, according to the contractt aggread once vpon, or ellis cause fom securitie to be maid to me for payment of eight thowfand, or fevin thowfand merkis, with the Thriiddis, without preiudice to my first gift of the

Superiorities and Patronages, I fall ever mak prayers and thanksgiving for your Maiefties Sacred perfon, Royall progenie, and prosperous government, and remane

Your Maieftes moft humble fervant,

J. A. B. OF ORCADS.

Edinb. 22 Junij 1614.

CCVII.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY OF ELIEBANK TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

According to the direktion of your Majefties letter fent to the Lordis of Priuie Counfell, I haif fett doune heir, undir my hand, the differences betuixt the Bifchope of Orknay and me, for the yearlie dewteis of the landis defigned to him, which fould not exceid in yearlie rent the fomme of eight thowfand merkis, by the Thriddis appoynted for the Ministeris ftipendis, according to the agreement maid betuixt the Erle of Orknay and him, which differences ar comprehendit wudir thefe Articles following:—

First, Thair wes omitted in the rekning maid with the Bifhop the penfiones gevin owt be the Earle and his father, whiche ar bot a temporarie right to thefe that poffeffe thame, and will expyre with thair deathe, and fo remane with the Bifchope and his fucefforis in all tyme cumming; and fo he can defyre no moir bott that thair may be compensation allowit to him during the penfionaris thair lyf tymes.

2. The landis ar omitted that ar lyand liey, which for the moft part hes procoidit frome the neegligence of the Chalmerlandis and takmen that had charge of the Erle's eftairis. The faidis landis beand fett for the dewtie that thay ar worth, and hes payed in tyme bygane, will mak increas to the yearlie dewtie, and fo aucht to be accepted be the Bifchope for a part of his rent.

3. Thair ar fome of the landis fett in tak for a small dewtie, whairof

the takis ar extyred, and so the Bifchope aucht to accept thame accord-
ing as they ar worthe, and as the possessoris wer contented to haif payed
for thame befoir they wer sett in tak.

4. The Bifchope craves deduc̄ione for landis whiche he alledges wer
iniustlie purchasid be the Erle, and sett at ouer heghe a rait, notwith-
standing that thay haif payed the full dewtie all the yeares preceeding.

5. The Bifchope craves deduc̄ione for landis designid be him to
Ministeris for thair gleibes, surpassing the Act of Parliament to the triple
availl.

6. The few mailes in the raking maid with the Bifchop ar for the
most part omitted.

7. In the said rekning thair wes no consideratione had of the gres-
fomes payed furth of the saidis landis, ilk thrie ȳeare, extending to ane
thowfand sex hundereth threttie eight poundis, whiche beand deuydit in
thrie partis, will mak the ineres of fyue hundereth fourtie fax poundis
yearlie.

8. The dewtie payed be the fiseharis for ground leiuē within the
towndis designid to the Bifchope, with the pultrie and peatis payed
furth of the saidis landis, wer not compted.

It is trew that direcc̄ione beand given be the Lordis of Exchecker,
the last Somer, to certane persones to selec̄t furth of the Rentale of
Orknay such paroches and landis as might countervaile the yearlie dew-
tie of eight thowfand merkis for the Bifchopes rent, and so much victuall,
and wther commoditeis, as might answeir to the quantitie of the Thriddis,
according to the contract maid betuixt the Erle and him: It wes then
fund, be these that wer employed (beand strangeris to the bussines, and
not weill acquainted with the nature of Orknay rentis, and trusting,
withall, to ane auld Rentale buik produccit be the Bifchope, whiche is
far schort of the rent that it is now put to), that all the rent of the
landis contened in his designatione, the Thriddis beand deducit, wer
found not to exceed the soume of fax thowfand sevin hundereth merkis,
in consideratione whairof the gressomes, pultrie, peatis, and wther casua-
liteis of that kynd, wer not reknit to him, bot the same allowit for the
proportione of eight hundereth poundis, which the rent of the landis

designed to him wer found, be the said rekning, to inlaik. Bot fra I tryed that the said rekning wes not weill maid, and that the rentis of these landis wer better nor eight thowfand merkis, by the Thriddis, it feined to be agreable to reafone, that all these commoditeis fould be reknit with the rest of the dewties, and no moir of all gevin to the Bifchope nor might mak vpp the yearlie rent of eight thowfand merkis with the Thriddis. By which rekning thair wilbe of ouerplus, according to the particular Rentale fent heirwith,¹ anc thowfand threttie twa poundis fyue schillings. The Rentale is for the most part maid vpp by these comptis takin in be the Bifchope him self, according to the whiche the possessoris haif maid payment bothe before and since. The informationes for the greffomes, ground-leiue of the boittis, and the rent whiche may be had for Greenwall in Paplay, ar maid to me by these that haif particular knowledge of the rentis of Orkney, and I think that the Bifchope will not mak greit questione thairanent.

The defyr I haif to geue your Maieftie particular informatione of all the differences concerning this buffines hes moved me to draw this discour to more lenth nor can be agreable with your Maieftis ferious and princle effairis. Bot I hoipe the cair I haif to mak your Maieftie cleir and trew informationes will plead your gracious fauer and acceptance; and swa I end with a most humble and feruent prayer for your Maieftis long preferuatione in all health and happienes.

Your Maieftis most humble
and faithfull seruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinburgh, the 24 of June 1614.

To the Kingis most Sacred Maieftie.

¹ The Rental referred to is added on the next page. The Report of the Privy Council, and the Bishop's remarks on the above statement by Sir Gideon Murray, will be found under the subsequent Nos. CCXVIII. and CCXIX.

CCVIII.—RENTALE OF THE FRIE RENT OF THE LANDIS DESIGNED TO THE BISCHOPE OF ORKNAY, ACCORDING TO THE ACCOMPTES TAKIN VPP BE THE SAID BISCHOPE AND MASTER JHONE FINLASSONE, CHALMERLAND-DEPUT TO SIR JAMES STEWART, OF THE CROPEIS 1611 AND 1612.

The malt of the landis contened in the said designatione, comptand ane laft of coift to ane chalder of malt, is thrie feoir twell chalderis twell bollis, whair of thair is to be deducit for the Thriddis fyftein chalderis, fwa restis, fyftie fevin chalderis twell bollis, pryce of the chalder or laft, 64 £. <i>inde</i> ,	3696 £.
The beir of the landis contened in the said designatione, comptand ane laft and ane half laft to ane chalder of beir, is fextein chalders fourtein bollis, or thairby, whair of thair is to be deducit for the Thriddis fyftein chalderis, fwa restis, ane chalder fourtein bollis, pryce of the chalder, 48 £. <i>inde</i> ,	90 £.
The meill of the landis contened in the said designatione, whair of thair is nothing to be deducit for the Thriddis, is fevin laft half laft, pryce of the laft is 72 £. <i>inde</i> ,	540 £.
The butter of the landis contened in the said designatione is foure laft ten barrell twa part barrell, whair of thair is deducit for the Thriddis thrie laft fevin barrell thrid part barrell, fwa restis, ane laft thrie barrell thrid part barrell, pryce of the barrell, 24 £. <i>inde</i> ,	368 £.
The fliche payed furthe of the landis contened in the said designatione is threttie fax laft thrie quarteris of ane laft, whair of deducit for the Thriddis fyne laft thrie quarteris of a laft, fwa restis, threttie ane laft, at 20 £. the laft, <i>inde</i> ,	620 £.
The few mailes payed to the Bischope furthe of the landis contened in the designatione, with the few mailes of the landis of Cathnes, is 340 £. 1 s. 6 d., whair of thair is to be deducit for the Thriddis, 214 £. 8 s. 4 d., fwa restis	125 £. 13 s. 2 d.

The landis of Greinwall, in Paplay, wer fett in tak be the Erle of Orkney for eight poundis of yearlie rent, which tak is exfpyred. Befoir the fetting of the faid tak the Erle might haif gotten for the faidis landis, befyd the few dewtie yearlie, als much malt and fiefche as will exceid, at the pryces afoirfaid, to the fomme of 126 £, fwa the faidis landis fould be allowed to the Bifchope for the faid fomme of	126 £.
The landis contened in the designatione payes of greffome ilk thrie yeare ane thowfand fex hundereth threttie eight poundis, which beand devydit in thrie partes, will augment the yearlie dewtie, ilk yeare,	546 £.
Thair doeth ly yerelie onerheid, within the boundis afoirfaid, of fifcher boittis fyftein, which boittis payes of ground leine, ilk ane of chame, twa duzen fifche, and ane barrell falt, estimat to fax pundis for the boitt, <i>inde</i> ,	90 £.
The caine fowles of the whole landis defigned to the Bifchope ar ane thowfand fourefcoir fax fowles, comptand fax fcoir to the hunderethe, whairof deducit for the Thrid, foure fcoir fevin, fwa refis ane thowfand nyntein fowles at ane fchilling fowre penyes the peice, <i>inde</i> ,	81 £. 5 s. 4 d.
The peatis payed furth of the faidis landis are threttie ane faddome at fyftie thre fchillingis fowre penyes the faddom, <i>inde</i> ,	82 £. 13 s. 4 d.
<i>Summa</i> ,	£6363, 11s. 10d.

G. MURRAY.

CCIX.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO KING JAMES.

MOST SACRED AND GRATIOUSE SOVERAIGNE,

The peril that growis to religioun by the abounding of Papittis in this your Maiefties Kingdom, and thair abounding proceeding cheiffly from the oversight gifin to the Marques of Huntley, hes muft ws, in a

meting we kept at Edinburgh the 22 of this moneth, to appoint an intimation, of new, of his and Errolis excommunication. But in regard a suspensioin wes grantit to the Marqueſſe be your Maieſties command, for a certain tym, that he ſuld not complain of hard dealing on our parte, we haif ordanit him to be cited to a certain day in the beginning of November, to heir the ſaid ſuspensioin diſchargit, and the intimation concludit againſt him. His recourſe wilbe to your Maieſtie, quhoſe graciouſe favoris he hes longe abuſit, and wil think by ſum prohibition from your Hienes to put back this ſtroke of Diſciplin; but, did your Maieſtie vnderſtand the trew ſtate of thingis, the Papittis inſolence, and our eace at this tym, we ſuld not fear he wold obtein any ſuche commandement. Sir, the truthe is, that al thoſe Northe partis ar plainly inclyning to a defectioin, numberis of Recufantis, griter then at any tym before, Preiſtis and Jeſuitis intertayned, baptifing and marying as thai haif occaſioin, and this in more open forte then thai haif ben accuſtomed: the blame of al being caſt vpon ws that ar Biſchops, ſome calling it our negligence, otheris our feare, and otheris, even of our beſt miniſteris, haſing chargit ws in our facis at this meting as the cauſe of this evil, haif deſyrit ws if we culd not ameuſe it, to deceave the Churche no more, and tak not vpon ws to govern that quliche we cannot haif governed. Qhether ſuche ſpechis as theſe may walken ws, we leave it to your Maieſtie to be conſiderit, ſpeciallie qhen, in our own knowledge, thair is more then juſt mater giſin thaim, and above that quliche we can or think gud maners to trouble your Maieſtie with in this letter. Our humble petition is thairfore to your Maieſtie, that if the Marqueſſe ſal mein him ſelf againſt this proceedinge, he may be commandit be your Hienes to tak ſome courſe for ſatiſſeing the Churche, and procure him ſelf to be abſolvit from the excommunication vnder quliche he lyes, the contempt qhair of in his perſon wil bred the diſdain and contempte with ws of al Diſciplin: qhairin aſſuring our ſellis of your Maieſties graciouſe favour, that we in ſome fort may be freed from the malicioſe calunnies of the wickit, and that God and your Maieſtie may haif that obedience, quliche becomnis of al your ſubiectis.

We commit other thingis that we thoct to haif addit, to the remembrance of your Maieſties ſervant Jhon Murrey, to whom we haif written

at griter lenthe, and prayis God Almyghtie to faif your Maieftie from al your enemyis, and gif your Hienes perpetual peace and profperitie.

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient fervants,

CATHNES.	SANCTANDROIS.
MURRAYE.	GLASGOW.
JA. B. OF ORCADS.	PA. B. OF ROSS.
AN. LISMOREN.	DUNBLANEN.

Edinburgh, the 23 Junj 1614.

To his moft Sacred Maieftie.

CCX.—THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS TO JOHN MURRAY OF
LOCHMABEN.¹

RYCHT ASSURIT FREIND :

In the letter we haif fent to his Maieftie, we referrit two particularis to be by yow communicat to his Hienes : The firft is, anent the offer ane gentilman hes maid for apprehending fum Jefuitis and Maffing preifts, and prefenting tham to the Counfal. The offer wes maid of four, but now one of tham is deceaft, took ficknes in the Lard of Gieltis houfe, wes caryit furth to one of his tennentis, and buryit feceritly ; the reft lene in the cuntrey, and wer never more buffie then at this present. The gentilman is ready to vndertake thair apprehenfioun vpon fecuritie of reward ; but without this wil not hafart for any promife can be gifin him. The Archbifhop of Glasgou told ws, from his Maieftie, that the man fuld be furly rewardit according as his fervice fuld be found worthie ; but to indent for enery man vpon ane particular fowm before hand, culd not be expedient, and mycht turn to the preiudice of him that fervit, feing he myght fal vpon ane that is worth ten thowfand lib ; yit this muftis him

¹ This and the preceding letter are in Spottiswood's handwriting.

not. We haif askit, we mean fuche of ws as he travellis with in this offer, qhat the men ar, alledging thair mycht be fo vyl bodies as it mycht fal his Maieftie wold not count tham worth v. fl.: His answer is, That thair ar men of alle good account as ony of that forte; and layis, that ghen he hes apprehendit tham, he wil furnifche probatioun of thair reflet and intertaynement in noblemen and gentilmens houfis, qho by the law wilbe punifchable, and wil be glaid to compone for thair remiffionis to a far greater fowm then he cravis; for qhiche, that fo good ane occaifion be not loft, qhairof we do not vnderftand qhat may be the event, and that his Maieftie be not put to greater chargis then is needful, we haif thoct, that it falbe good his Maieftie command the Thefaurar Deput to conferre with the gentleman, and gif him fecuritie of that qhiche he cravis; the fervice being done, and he making gud the reflet, qhiche he offeris to qualifie, for this way the penalties of thair intertayners wil refound al and much more then is cravit.

The other particuler concernis the Bifchop of Orkney. In qhat vncertantie that benefice lyes his Maieftie knowis fufficiently: the laft Parliament diffolvit the Bifchoprick, and extinguiſchit al former mortificatiouns of landis and livingis appertening thairto, vpon promife a new foundatioun fuld be maid be fun of our fyghtis, and a commiffioun wes grantit to that effect; yit ſince that tym, it is two yeiris now almoft expyrit, nothing hes procedit, but from day to day hes it ben delayit, qhyles vpon one pretexte, qhyles vpon another; the Bifchop vndone very nigh with his perfewing of the buſines, and the Churehe lyk in end to refaif ane incurable preiudice; for be delayis it may cum in end that ane erectioun be never maid of a benefice thair, and be it not done in his Maiefties tym, qhiche God Almychtie longe continew, qhat fuccelle we may promife our fellis in fuche a fute ye wil eaſily judge. The ſtay that laft the buſines refavit, wes ane allegaunce that the landis agreit to be gifin the Bifchop did exceed the fowm condifcendit vpon, and this wes qualeſeit in the entrefle that vsis to be gifin every fyve yeiris be the tenmentis, qhiche wes thoct at that tym to exceed the fowm allowit to him in fyve hundreth lib. Scotis yeirly. Now tryal being takin in the cuntrey of the worthe of theſe landis, they ar found to be within the fowm; and entrefle, and al profitis reekonit, the Bifchop fal not haif, if

his payment wer never fo guid, thre hundreth lib. above. But the state of that cuntrey is knowen, and the povertie of the tennentis fuche as no man can expect a ful and compleit payment of the dewty, the landis being racked to the highest rent be the Erle; and for a matter of so light importance to mak fuche questious and delayis, we ar assurit is against his Maiesties knowledge and plesure. Thocht the entresse wer of a greater consequence, is thair any superiour that wil count of his entresse fo as mak it ane parte of his rent, the sam being subiect to so many vncertainties? or is thair ony Bischop in the cuntrey that wantis these casualties, and many mo, of the landis thair possesse? It wer pitie a Bischoprik of his Maiesties foundatioun (for so it wilbe callit heirafter) fuld be so strictly lukt to, as not a fyften lib. stirling mycht passe vnreckonit. Befydis a¹, his Maiestie hes fermit the landis to Sir James Stewart, we mean the landis and living of Orkney, for fourtie thousand merkis yeirly, qhairin thir of the Bischops ar not comprehendit; neyther wil the passing of his gift diminische any parte of his Maiesties rent. Adde vnto this, the present Bischop's service done in the Church, and particularly in quyeting those partis, and bringing tham to [lawfull]¹ obedience, quiche fuld be remembrit, and we hope salbe, the rather of [the poor] estate of that cuntrey, quiche we leave otheris to advertise, only we [think] that it is not lyk, fuche inconvenientis had arisen as now apperis, if [the rule] of the country had continewit in his person.

In consideratioun of al, we most humbly intreat his Maiestie to send dire[ctioun,] that the signatoris quiche we think ar in the Threfores Deputis handis may cum [here], and being signed be his Maiestie and the Erle of Somersfet, the sam may go throw the seals, for the assuring of the Bischop present, and al his successouris, in al tymis after.

Thir thingis we remit to your gud occasiounis to remember, intreating yow that we may haif answer for bothe, quich, if his Maiestie be plesit, may be set down in one letter to Sir Gedeon, and we think your privat to him, be his Maiesties command in bothe the erandis, wil suffice; for the one is, to send vp the signatoris of the Bischop of Orkney, and the other, to mak surtie to a gentleman that salbe brocht vnto him for

¹ A small portion of the margin in this place, containing the words supplied within brackets, is torn off.

undertaking such a buſines. We muſt be alwayis troubleſom unto yow; but if we can no more, we fal pray God to bleſſe yow, and al thoſe that love the peace and proſperitie of his Churchie.

Your moſt aſſurit at our power,

CATHNES.

PA. B. OF ROSS.

SANCTANDROIS.

GLASGOW.

MURRAYE.

DUNBLANEN.

To my honorabill good freind, Jhon Murray of
Lochmaban, of his Maieſties bedchamber.

3

CCXI.—THE BISHOP OF GALLOWAY [TO MR DAVID HUME OF
GODSCROFT.]

HONORABLE SIR,

If this Tretife had cum ſinner in my hands, it ſould have cum ſinner to yow be me. My reſolutione was that non heir ſould have ſein it befor your ſelf. How they ar publiſhed to uthers befor I gat them, I knaw not. It is againſt my will that I have enterid in this contention with anie that fears God, eſpeciallie with yow.² But qlwen ye confiſſider, ye will ſie ye provokit me unto it by fore acenſations of my confeience, my minitrie. The lyk hes never bein written againſt a man not condemnit of hereſie, and I have bein forcit to anſwer, not for eaſe of my confeience, for I thank the Lord no woord of ony creatour can impair my peace, but for deſenſe of my minitrie, leiſt it ſould bein made wprofitable to the Church. That I knaw, I never offendit yow, and hes mony times mervelled quhat ſould have movit yow to have written ſo hardlie againſt me, and that publiklie; for in your letter, ſent to me with the Admonitione, your words wer, “ I have doone yow no wrong,

¹ The address is not preserved; but the letter is indorsed,—“ Cowper to Mr D. Hume.”

² Hume of Godscroft addressed to Cowper “ An Admonitorie Letter,” in answer to “ The Biſhop of Galloway his Apologie.” The treatiſe here mentioned, was “ The Biſhop of Galloway his Dikaiologie: containing a juſt Defence of his former Apologie againſt the injuſt imputations of Mr David Hume.” London 1614, 4to, pp. 183.

except it be that I have published this to utheris befor ye had sein it your self, because a publik cause must be publiklye handlit." These ar your words, as your awin letter will witnes, and thairfor have ye na cause to grudge at my publicatioune of ane Answer (as I heir ye do). nather is thair ony sharpnes in it answarable to the bitternes of your Admonitioune. It may be I have gone out of the compas of sobrietie, yit not so far as ye have laid me by your example. We ar but men, subject to our owin infirmities as uthers ar. Always, if ony words falbe thocht mor scharplie spoken than becumes, by such as ar indifferent, or yit your self being judge, ye confiddering it out of a sober and equitable mynd, I fall not be atchamed in als publik a mainer to restor yow fourfold. For this I may say, of all them that hes written against me, ye have delt most honestlie with me in this, that ye have putt to your name whair they have concealed theirs; and this I hope to mak publik to all men or it be long, thocht not ony mor by such poliniks, which I fie ar not pleisant to peaceable men of either syd. Bot as to them, if they be perswadit they defend the cause of God, it becums them to have shewed themselfs, for quhat place fould beene to feare in that cause; and for my part, I fould have employed my credit to have gone betweim them and his Maiestie his displeasur, for I seek no man's disadvantage. And the Lord, who knowes the secreits of all hairts, will be witnes to me, that if licht had not led me in this, for all the kingdomes in the world, I wald not have takin me to this opinioun. I speik not this craving ony peace of your penne: wryt as ye think good, and as God fall derect yow. As ye was the first, so if ye please tak yow the last word in this fit: [if] they be personall invectives, I arme me with patience; if against the cause, there is aneuch written for it alreddie. The Church, be God's grace, shall not long want some better fruit of my labours, in bothe the languages, quherin, if I can ony way know I have wronged yow, be the grace of God, I shall be about to mend it. Thus commending yow to his gratious protectioun, I rest,

One that loveth you in the Lord,

Edinburgh, June 24, 1614.

W. B. OF GALLOWAY.

Expects answer, if ye please.

CCXII.—LORD BINNING TO JOHN MURRAY.

SIR,

I reffaued from yow one letter, be the Archbishop of Glasgou, anent your turnes concerning the Chapell Royall and the Bifchop of Galloway; and ane vther from Archibald Cambell, anent the particulars which he vndertuke. For thefe I can anfueir no farder, bot that he and thefe whom the bufines concernes, fall be tymelic remembred of thair promeis, and preaffed to performe thair dewtie, if thair turnes fuceeid; whairof I ftand in great dowl.

I wrait to yow that the Bifchop of Galloway had promeifed, verie freindlie, to fettle your teyndis. Kirkonell, who did folicite that bufines, having ended your affaires with Barnbarroch and Drummorell, is now gone to the cuntrie for your affaires and his owne.

Your affaires with Lochinvar¹ delayes, till his cumming bak to the towne, and bringing of his evidentis to your man of law, of the lands whairof yow fould have right from him. The gentilman whoes content is neceffar in that securitie will not be heir, whill anfueir cum from Court in the mater concerning him, which wes expected before this tyme; and the longer delay of it may be imputed to me, albeit the help lyes not in my hand till it cum from aboue. Thairfore, if that mater be not alreddie difpatched, I pray yow further the anfueir, fuch as his Maicftie fall be pleifed to grant.

The reft of your affaires will be maid knowne to yow be letters from James Hamilton, and vther freinds, to which I refer me; and, committing yow to God's mercifull proteccion, I reft

Your moft affectionat and bund freind,

BINNING.

Edinburgh, 8 Julij [1614].

¹ Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar, whose eldest son, John, was created Viscount of Kenmore, in March 1633.

We expect that the Bifchop of Galloway fall, this efternoone, expeid the takkis of your teindis for ane lyfrent, and nynteine yeires thairefter. And becaus he hes obtaned Broughton's infettments of the owteinds decerned to mak no faith for non-production, which we knew not before, he is willing to renew your furetie thairrof. It is fit that, be your letter of thankis, you tak notice of his kyndnes, for we find him verie hairtlie and reddie.

To the right worfhipfull John Murray
of Lochmaben. one of his Maiefties
bedchamber at Court.

CCXIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

RIGHT HONORABIL COUSING,

I haue refaued your kindlie letter from my Lord Bifchop off Glafgow, and can nocht bot thank yow off yior monye testimones off kindnes. Quhen eiuer that mater concerning the Chapell Royall fall be handled, I fall doe gud will to my powar baith for yior fatiffactioun and Sir Robert Gordounis, as yie recommend to me. Yior bedfallow is nocht yit returned to this toun, bot I haue ane great complaint to yow off hir, for na treatie I can mak to hir, fhoewill nocht tak ane chalmher heir in the Kingis houfe, quhilk my bedfallow maid readie to hir, and I think ather yie or fhoewill be als hamelie and priuat with me as with onye, and fpecialie in this houfe.

Becaus my Lord Fentoun is reteired to Ingilfeild for his health the tyme off this progres, yie man excuse my hamelines to trubill yow with my paequetis, and to burding yow to be cairfull my lettiris be furelie deliured. I recommend to yow fpecialie at this tyme to fie deliured with diligence myne to my Lord off Bruntiland, Sir Robert Meluill, and to my Lady Roxbrough, my fifter. As to onye fie occurrence as wee haue heir, I doubt nocht bot yie ar participant to fie, as my Lord Secretair writes to his Maieftie: for all is heir (praifed be God) quiet, in good

justice and obedience. Thus ending this present, wiffes yiw all weil and happenes,

Yiour louing Counting to ferue yiw,

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 8 Julij 1614.

DUNFERMELJNE.

I man nocht foryiet to gif yiw speciall thankis for the guidwill and fauour I vnderstand off my nepuieu, Sir Claud Hamilton, ye haue schawin to him in this besines he hes had adoe.

To the right honorabill my affured good freind, Jhone Murray, in his Maief- ties bedchahmer.

CCXIV.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO JOHN MURRAY.

RIGHT WORSCHIPPFULL SIR,

Efter my hartlie commendations, please receive four presentations, to be offered to his Majestie to be signed in favour of two poore Ministers within my diocie, quhilk please returne with als great speid as ye may. Thus I am bold to trouble yow, hoping for good and kynd acceptance, in the old maner, as ye may assure yourselff of my constant affection, and goodwill of the rest of my estate to the wttermost, and so, efter my most hartie prayers to God for blissing and consernation to our Sovereane Maister, I commit yow to Godis blessed direction, and I rest,

Your most affured and loving brother,

Edinburgh, 8 Julij 1614.

SANCTANDROIS.

To the right worshipfull and my loving brother, Jhone Murray, one of his Majesties bedchamber.

ADDITIONAL LETTERS AND NOTES.

ADDITIONAL LETTERS AND NOTES.¹

PAGE 8. LINE 14.

[Mr James Duncanson: His name as Minister of Tullibody and Alloa, in the Diocese of Dunblane, occurs in the Assignation of Stipends for 1614.]

PAGE 9. III.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JAMES R.

Right trusty and welbeloued Cowfen and Counfellouris, Wee greete yow hartely well. Having vnderstood, by a complaint from the Marques of Huntlie, that the Presbyterie of Aberdene intendes to proceede to Excommunication against him and his Lady for not communicating, although he heares Conference, frequentes the Sermons, and yealdes all outward obedience, and craues a reasonable tyme to resolue him before he be enforced to Communicate: Wee haue thought good to acquaynte yow with our mynde in that matter, That although the said Marques his behauiour hath not bene such in Our seruice as Wee ought to extend any clemency or curtesie towardes him vpon his owne deserte, yet because Wee holde that a mater of mere conscience to compelle [any man] to communicate before he finde a stedfast resolution [in his harte] to do it, Wee cannot find their resolution [reason]able: So that if the said Marques be contented to finde sufficient caution, or may be hable to verifie that he offers to hear conference, frequentes the sermons, obeyes the lawes anent the receipt of Excommunicated

¹ The page, and the number followed by a †, denote the place in this volume to which the Notes or Additional Letters belong, according to the respective dates.

perſons and Recufants, and generallie fatlifies in all other pointes of externall obedience the Diſcipline of the Kirk, It is Our pleaſour that yee graunt him ſuſpenſion, and diſchardge them of any proceeding againſt him, vnder paine of horning. So Wee commende yow to God. From Our Caſtle of Windſore, the xxvth of September 1604.¹

To Our right truſty and weilbeloued Cowſen and
Counſellouris, The Earl of Montros, Chancellor,
and remanent Lordis and others of Our Counfell
of Eſtate in Our Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 13. VI.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truſty and weilbelouit Cowſen and Counſellouris, We grete yow wele: Althocht We gaif Our direccioun to Sir Alexander Stratoun of Lowrieſtoun, that in materis of Excommunicatioun of Noblemen, he ſould adviſe the Brethrenne of the Miniſterie to proceed with greate moderatioun, and to uſe all goode meanis, rather by lenitie to reduce thame, than by ouer great rigour thay ſould be exalperated, in whiche

¹ Among other letters regarding the proceedings against George Sixth Earl and First Marquis of Huntley, for his adherence to Popery, the Marquis, on the 20th November, expresses to the King his gratitude for the above letter in his favour to the Privy Council; and mentions that notwithstanding the authority of the Privy Council, the Presbytery of Aberdeen had summoned him to appear on the 2d of January following, "meaning that day to proceed aganis me and my wyf, not regarding your most excellent Majesties will;" and he adds, that if he were not exempted for one year from their malicious dealings, he would be forced, with his wife and family, to leave the kingdom. (Letters and State Papers, p. 60.) The King, on the 22d of March, directs the Council "to have ane special cair and regard that the Ministeris, moveris of that question aganis the Marques of Huntley, be content within the boundis of moderation." On the 1st of April his Majesty specially alludes to the letter presented by Mr John Forbes, which is printed in the present volume, at page 14. And on the 20th of that month, the Lord Chancellor reports to the King the Council's proceedings in that matter. (Letters, &c., p. 72.)

proceeding they would use the advice first of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, and if they find any Nobleman who is to be censured refractory or unwilling to conforme him selfe to the law, that upon their requisition to you, you call thame [him] before you, and finding him disobedient, that you concur with the Ministerie, that as they execute the Spirituall censure, so you may extend the Civile power against thame; but by the contrair, if you find the Nobilman willing to satisfie the Kirk in all thingis, failing that he find some waiknes wherby he desyris not to be haistlie pressed with Communicating, that in that case, or any of the lyke nature, wherin their appeirith no malice nor publick slander, that you interpose your auctoritie to discharge the Ministerie of such proceeding till We be first aduerteffit, vnder such pane as you think requisite; not that by this course We meane any fauour to such as shall thus disobey, but that their ouer great haist mak not their proceedingis contemptible, whiche We wishe should not be used against greate personageis but with great wisdom and discretioun, and upon notable and knowne disobedience. So not doubting but you will also cairfullie manteyne all their lauchfull proceedingis, and see all dew obedience to be indifferentlie yealdit vnto thame by all Our subiectis, as We wishe you to moderat their extraordinarie raffnes, We bid you all fairwele. From Oure Pallace of Whytehall, the xj of Februaire 1605.

To Oure right trusty and weilbelouit Cofines
and Counsellouris, The Erlis, Lordis, and
otheris of Oure Counsell of Estate in Oure
Countreyis of North Britayne.

PAGE 18. XI.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Trustie and weilbelouit Cofine and Counsellour, We grete you wele: We haif hard of the lait meiting of some of the Ministerie at

Abirdeyne, and has sene the copy of all thair proceedingis, whiche We find to fauour nothing els bot of seditioun and plane contempt of Ws and Our authoritie, so We ar fullie resolu'd to haif thir beginningis prevented, and that ane present remeid be rather applyed, then that be the ineresie of the malladye the cure fould heirefter be of greater difficultie, and We haif partienlarlie noted such speciall placeis, wherby thair seditious thoghtis ar cleirlye discouerit, which We haif send to yow, that with an Aduocat yow may consult alswele of the particularis heir set down as of all vtheris thingis whilkis you may gadder and collect your self furth of this Historie of thair proceedingis, and that vpon the same laughfull proces may be deduceit aganis thame, according to the qualitie of thair offence. As first in that point of thair proceeding, quhair mentioun is maid that Our Commissioner did present the Counsellis letter vnto thame, markit in the copie heirwith send with this figure (τ), thay wald witnes and attest thair willingnes to the satisfactioun of Ws and Oure Counsell, sa fer as myght stand with the Worde of God and the testimonie of thair Conscience. Now the reule of thair Conscience being thair awn confait and apprehensioun, thay think thame selfis no forder astricte'd to Oure obedyence and satisfactioun then fall seeme to thame selfis expedyent. Nixt, in that missiue letter written to the Counsell, in that pairt markit with this (x), in making mentioun of the discharge of thair dewitie, thay nominat God, Kirk, and thair Conscience, bot the mentioun of ony dewitie to Ws thair Prince and Souerane is omitted, as yf nowther Nature nor the Worde of God had euir direct obedyence of Subiectis to thair Natiue Princes; and in the said letter, thairefter, at this signe (✠), thay wald mak this thair Apologie for thair proceeding, That thay fould not be the first oppynnaris of ane gape to the oppin breache and violatioun of the lawis and statutis of this realme, willing the Counsell to wey and confidder thair of, as yf thay wald mak ane plane accusatioun of sum tyrannie intendit be Ws, to the preiudice of the lawis of that Our kingdome, ane speecche altogidder finelling of treatoun and Lese Maieestic, and onlie vtterit be thame to mak Oure subiectis jealous of Oure proceedingis, and, sa fer as in thame lvis, to rais tumult and seditioun in that Oure kingdome. And last, wheras vpon the delyuerie of the Counsellis letter thay willed the

Laird of Loureiftoun to remove, thay in the meantyme ceassing to intreate of otheris materis, did continew the Affembly whill Twifday the last of September, in that thay did tak vpoun thame the full auctoritie and power of ane Generall Affembly, and in doing thair of without warrand or auctoritie, thay committed ane manifest contempt and disobeyence: In which foirfaidis, and mony other thingis that may be observed in the Historie of thair proceedingis, We doubt not bot that thir vnreulic spirittis that hes comenit at this tyme hes directlie come vnder the compas of Oure law, and may be procedit aganis and punished as trespaffouris in a very heich degree, wherein, howeur, Oure inclinatioun hes bene frome Oure nativitie disposit to elemencie, and free of all rigour and feneritie, yitt in this We do feir muche that lenitie fall produce no goode effect: And it being ane great deall better that ane vnnecessarie member be cutt of then that be the gangrene and corruption of it the haill body sould be endangerit, We will rather mak choise to cause proceed with rigour and extremitie aganis some of thir, according to the qualitie of thair cryme, then by suffering thame to eschape with such faultis, to mak otheris, vpoun hoip of lyke impunitie, to mak no accompt to committ the lyke trespas; and thairfoir, efter you haif consultit with Oure Aduocat, you fall aggrauat to Oure Counsell the haynounsnes of thair crymes, and thairefter aduerteis Ws how far thay haif come within the compas of the law, and what dew punishment the same dois appoint for such lyke offenses, and We fall returne to you Oure will and pleasour what farder We wald haif to be done heiranent; forder, We persaue that thair is not ony of these Ministeris bot ar vnder a compas of Oure law for vnlauchfull Convocatioun, at the leif conuening of Oure lieges, not onlie without Oure licence bot directlie aganis Oure commande gevin to the contrarie, whiche is directlie criminall. Sua We bid you farewele.

Frome Havering in the Bour, the xix of Julij 1605.

To Oure trustie and weilbelouit Counsellour,
The Lord of Balmerinocht, Oure Principall Secretarie of Scotland.

PAGE 19. LINE 2.

[These two letters from Mr Robert Bruce, without date, belong to June 1607. See note ¹, page 88; also the letter in this Appendix, from the Privy Council, dated 2d of June 1607.]

PAGE 22. XIV.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

We refflaint and has confidderit at length, with no small contentment, your Maiefties moft worthy labouris for the confutatioun of that pretendit Affemblic haldin at Abirdene; the quhilk as in ittelff by no reafon can be mantenit, fo when we perufed thofe verie and trew groundis wherby your Maieftie fo fenfiblie and fuccinêlie layed oppin thair erroris, and that thair doing wes eftablisheit by none of thofe warrandis which thay vntrewlie pretendit, as we haif fund oure felfis the better confirmed in oure former opinion, fo by the publicatioun we haif maid of that excellent Difcourfe,¹ quhairin everie man may fie the trew anatomic of a laughfull Affemblic, and how the fame moft be warranted, we perfuade owre felff that nowther Minister nor other fubieêt who is led by reafoun, acknowledgeis your Maiefties Royall aucthoritie, or loucis the weil and quietnes of the Kirk, bot will alluterlie condemne the faid meiting, and judge the authouris and foftereris of fo prefumptuous and infolent ane aêt worthie punifhment; and albeit we could wilhe the few number that hes attempted this enormitie to acknowledge thair errour, and that for the felander of thair profeffioun, the memorie of it wer abolifheit, yitt, yf pleis your Maieftie, who beft knawis quhat remedyes ar fitteft for fuch difperat difeaftes, wherof your Royall Maieftie hes

¹ The Discourse or Declaration, "which his Highnesse tooke occasion to pen with his owne hand," is inserted in the subsequent "Declaration of the iust Causes, &c." Imprinted at London, 1606, 4to. See note to the subsequent letter, page 360.*

curit verie money, to preseryve the forme, we fall prosequite the same without respect of persone. We haif this day examined fax of the principallis, that wer in the Blaknes, vpon these Interrogatouris we ressaunt frome your Maiestie. Thair Answers,¹ vnder thair hand, we haif send to the Erll of Dunbar, to be sene at your Maiesteis oportunitie. So humble craving to be directit by your Maiestie in thir affairis, specialie of the Kirk, the peace wherof hes onlie lyff frome your Maiesteis princelie cair, as we shall imploy oure waik endeavouris to follow furth the same to your Maiesteis contentment. We wishe youre most Sacred Maiestie, in all felicitie, a lang and prosperous regne. Frome Perth, the [blank] day of September 1605.²

PAGE 35. XXI†

LORD BALMERINOCHE, SECRETARY TO HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES.

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The Laird of Laurenstoun and I being dealling, conforme to your Maiesties directioun, with the Bischope of Dunkell,³ for ane furrander of the Bischoprik in favore of Mr James Nicolfoun, the newis cam to us that the Archbischop of Yorke wes departed this lyff, whairpone I have presumed to pute your Maiestie in mynd of that ye commandit me, to certifie the Bischop of Bristoll of his remove to [Durham?], and granting of the Denerie of Yorke to the Bischop of Dunkell.⁴ I am

¹ These Interrogatories, and the Answers, are preserved by Calderwood, (History, vol. vi., p. 293—295.)

² In the volume of Privy Council Register, "Royal Letters, &c., Jan. 1604—Mar. 1612," there are transcripts of other letters relating to the prosecution of the six imprisoned Ministers. One of these from the Privy Council to the King, dated Halyrudhous, [blank] December 1605, informs his Majesty of the trial of the six Ministers, the issue of which, it is said, was mainly owing to "the dexteritie" and "the authoritie over his friends" made use of for that end by the Earl of Dunbar.

³ Mr Peter Rollock of Piltoun, Advocate: see note to page 224.

⁴ This mode of satisfying the titular Bishop of Dunkeld for his proposed resignation did not take effect, as Thornborough, Bishop of Bristol, was not translated to Durham and was allowed to hold the Deanery of York *in commendam*.

perfwadit iff Mr James Nicolfoun wer fetled in that place, and Mr Andro Lamb in Briehen, nane of that calling either can or may doe that, that thay may, for advancinge the Bifhopes eftait. Thus remitting to your Maiefties princelie wifdome how to difpofe in thir materis tending to the furderece of that fervice, I humble craive your Maiefties pardone, wiffing to your Maieftie, efter ane lang and happie regne, eternall felicitie. From your Maiefties Pallace of Halyrudhous, 20 Januarij 1606.

PAGE 38. XXIII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfallouris, We grete you wele: Efter the repeiting agane of Oure hairtie thankis vnto you for your moft refolute, diferete, and diligent behaviour in your cariage anent the Conuictioun of thefe contemptuous and rebellious Minifteris, We haif now thoght gude, for putting ane concludioun and end to this vnpleafant vexatioun of yours in Oure feruice, to fett you down in thefe presentis Oure cleir mynd and refolutioun wherby you may gouerne your fellfis in the fatling and determining of this fufheous proces.

Uponn two pointis you expect Oure anfuer and refolutioun: Firft, Anent the forder proceeding with the Perfonis alreddy conuictid; and nixt, Quhat ordour falbe takin with thair other Brethrene that ar in all circumftanceis oft guiltie in the lyk caufes with thame fellfis.

As for the Perfonis alreddy conuictid, Oure will is That as you your fellfis haue alreddy acquainted Ws with the ordour gevin for thair ftrait imprifonment, that fo the fame may be putt in dew executionn, to witt, that thay be imprifonned in diuers rowmis, euery one fingle be him felff, without accefs of ony creature bot thair keiparis vnto thame, and all fuche circumftanceis of ftraitnes vfed vnto thame as is vfuall for condepmnit perfonis (laving on of yrnis onlie excepted.)

Bot becaus Oure meaning and intentionn evir wes and ftill is rather to falve the foir of that erroneus and feditious opinioun of the denyall of Oure Auctoritie Regall, then to vse ony rigour vpoun the personis of the offenderis, yf thay might ony way be reduceit to the acknowledge-ment of thair offence, and with the Ancient Christian Church rather to anathematize and rute out the herefey then distroy the persone of the herityke, We haif heirfoir thocht goode that yee Oure Secretarie fuld putt in frayme a shorte Declaratour of Oure intentionn and course of proceeding in this busynes, setting down thairin allwele thair first contemptuous Conventicle (thocht by thame callit ane Assemblies) as also thair inexcusable contempt and disobedyence thairin boith to Oure awne chargeis and to Oure Counfellis letters and admonitionis; and so frome the beginning discourseing and discovering all the pointis of thair obstinacie opposed to Oure gentle and patient proceeding with thame who, as We neur did refuse the Ministeris frome the keiping of ane Generall Assembly, so wer We evir reddey to caus the same be keipit in dew tyme and place, as Oure awne sehorte Declaratour maid by Oure awne selfe, and sent you frome Oure hunting Progres the last yeare, doith moir largelie beir witnes, whiche We wald lykeways haue you to repeat in the said treatise; lykeas, for forder convictioun of thair obstinacie, We haif laitlic caufit a Generall Assembly to be proclaimed,¹ as is notour to all men, and thairfoir this point which is now in questioun may be so explained thairin as it may be richtlie vnderstoode be all men; no questioun being now in hand anent the lauchfulnes and vnlauchfulnes of ane Generall Assembly, nor yitt what is the power and limittis thairof; bot onlie Oure authoritie having bene most heichlie contemned by thair keiping of siche ane baife and vnlauchfull Conuenticle, to the manifest disobedyence and breache of Oure chargeis and prohibitionis in the contrair: The questioun now is, Quhidder We may not be competent Judge to these thair rebellious proceedingis, joyned with thair Declina-

¹ " Upon the 26th of September [1605] a warrant is gevin out at Hampton Court, for holding an Assemblie at Dundie, the last Tuisday of Julij (but in what yeare never a word, and so to be holdin *ad Gracas Calendas*), to stoppe the mouthis of unquiett spirits." &c.—(Calderwood's History, vol. vi. p. 333; and at p. 338 is given the Proclamation itself from one of the printed copies.)

tour of Oure Judicatur in that caise? And that in the said Treatise or Declaratur it may be cleirly maid manifest to the world how far this questioun differis from dipping ony way, How far ane King or Counsell may cognosce and determine vpon caussis meir Spirituall, and belonging to the effence of Godis Worthippe; since in this caise thair is nothing by you medlit into bot the judging and punishment of ane insolent ryott directlie disobeying Oure commandementis: As lykeways the doubteing vpon the interpretation of the Act of Parliament will thairin be cleirit, for the subseqent Act interpreting the former is so far from derogation to the other, as by the interpretation thair of it dois directlie conferme it. For first, quhair it onlie exceptis materis meir Spirituall, and of the effence of Godis Worshipp, it dois thairby sufficientlie include all other thingis to be conteyned vnder the meaning of the former Act, and that this caise hes no vicinitie with any materis meir Spirituall is alreddy declairit.

And nixt, quhat goode subiect dare anes presume to think that becaus in the laiter Act We did interprete Oure meaning in the former Act to haif bene to haif assumed to Oure selfe any such Papall and Absolute pover over the Worde and Worshipp of God, the authoritie wherof, as it dependis vpon no fleche, so aucht no personis mortall whatsoeur medle with the change and alteration thair of, and that thairby We oulie meanit is evident by the wordis of "meir Spirituall, and essentiall Worshipp of God," content in the said Act: Quho dar (We say) vpon this so shameleslie and vntrewlie subsume, as yf by these wordis We did also include ather a resigning of that pover onlie belonging to God in the handis of ony Assambley, or muche lesse that ather the Policie of the Churehe ar indifferent matteris, and least of all ony libertie for thame to do in materis of tyme and place at thair appetyte could euer be meanit; thairby making Ws by that laiter Act to mak ane resignation, as it wer, of Our Royall prerogatiue and authoritie frome Ws and Ouris in the handis of the Generall Assambley: And thairfor, in the preamble of this Declaratur, it wald be showne that becaus We wer informed that greate questioun and disputation wes maid befor the Jurye vpon the interpretation of this Act, (althoght in end thay did most deuitifullie conclude,) We thairfor thought goode, for cleiring and purge-

ing of all Oure peoplis hartis frome ony fuch doubtis in tyme comeing, alſwele to fet down the trew Narratioun of this hole proceſs, as alſua the trew interpretation of Oure meaning in the ſaidis Actis of Parliament, ſince to Ws as to the Supream Judge vnder God, and maker of the law, doeth belong the interpretation of Oure awne deid; And it wald alſo be fett down in the concluſioun and end of the ſaid Declaratour. That as this is publiſheit for the ſatiffactioun and trew informatioun of all goode ſubiectis, ſo We do ſtraitlie and vnder all hieft pane command and injoyne that no ſubiect of whatſomeuir rank, qualitie, or profefſioun, tak vpoun him aither in publict or priuat to murmure or call in queſtioun in ony ſoirt this Oure prerogatiue and authoritie Royall, with certificationn that the contemnaris thairof ſalbe reallie puniſheit in the qualitie of ſeditious perſonis and wilfull contemnaris of Oure juſt and langhfull gouernement.

How foone this Declaratour can be maid reddey, it wilbe fitt that not onlie it be prented and publictly diſperſed,¹ bot lykewayis that it be putt in the handis alſwele of the ſaidis Conuictit perſonis as of thair Brethren that ar guyltie of the ſame cryme.

As to thair other Brethren that ar not yitt conuictit, it is abſolutlie Oure will, that with all conuenient ſpeede thay be putt to the lyketryale, for by no reaſoun in juſtice or equitie can thair be ane diuiſioun maid betuix thame als long as thair concurrence boith in guylt and

¹ In regard to the wiſh here expreſſed and enjoined by his Maieſty, the Council in their reply ſay, that “ that Declaration, whereof your Maieſtye has ſo cleirly and painfullie ſett down Informationn boith in this letter and that other from Rokingham Caſtle, it ſalbe drawne up with ſuch ſpeede as your Maieſties Secretarie can, conſidering the throng of the Sessioun, eſter ſa lang vacance, and ſent to your Maieſtye to be reformed.” It accordingly appeared under the following title:—“ A Declaration of the juſt cauſes of his Maieſties proceeding againſt thoſe Miniſters, who are now lying in priſon, attainted of high Treason. Set forth by his Maieſties Counſell of his Kingdome of Scotland. Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, &c.. 1606.” 4to, pp. 45. “ Given at Edinburgh, the ſeventh day of March 1606.” The author was Sir Thomas Hamilton, King’s Advocate, whoſe letter on the ſubject of the trial of the Six Miniſters is printed in this volume at page 38. But in regard to the proſecution of the other Miniſters, the Council, “ craueing your Maieſties pardon,” in their letter ſtate explicitly, that in the event of ſuch a trial taking place the reſult was very uncertain; and it was no doubt in conſequence of their remonſtrance that the trial did not take place.

obtinacie pretendis thame to be one body; bot this Declaratour being first published, togidder with the preceding convicioun of thair fellowis, can not bot in Our opinioun remove all difficultie of thair convicioun, Especcialie more waye electioun being maid of the nixt Affeouris then wes of the former; ffor nouthir very curious fantastieall nor too simple personis ar fitt to be affeouris, and on the other parte, thair can be no partialitie attributit for making ane cairfull electioun of the nixt Affeouris, for making all thingis the furar in regard that the former president hes alreddy decydit the questioun. And in caise the frait imprisonment of these Convicit personis, the publishing of this Declaratour, and the convicioun of thair criminall fellowis, can ony way haif that operatioun (whiche We wald hairtelie wishe) in humbling the proude stomakis of these alreddy convicted, Then vpon your acquainting Ws thairwith, We fall signifie Our forder pleafour concerning thame. In the meantyme, you may gif oute to the world that thair dome and forder punishment is onlie delayit vnto the convicioun of thair fellowis, who ar alyke guiltie with thame: And vpon Oure being acquainted with the convicioun of the rest, the publishing of this Declaratour, and quhat operatioun We fall find these thingis fall worke vpon the partyis thame sellis, We fall then fend ane Warrant according to the forme to the Judge, containing the Declaratioun of Oure will anent thair dome, whiche vntill then man be reserved as *Arcanam Imperij*. And so wisheing you all goode success in the conclusioun and happy end of this busynes, as your faithfull diligence hes bene coupled with ane goode fortune in your proceeding thairin till now, We bid you hairtelie fairwele. Frome Oure Courte of Whytehall, the 22 of Januar 1606.¹

¹ Mr John Forbes, in his "Certane Records," &c., refers to the above letter, when he says, "About the 26th day of January an answer was sent from the King to the Council, touching the doome to be pronounced," &c.; but "which directioun was kept close by the Counsall, which with all diligenece wrote back again to his Highness," &c. (Wodrow Society edition, page 503.) The Council's Answer to this letter, already alluded to, is recorded in the Register of the Privy Council, dated the [blank] day of January 1606. It is, however, much too long to be given in this place; and the King's Reply (referred to by Forbes), and various other letters regarding this process, are not preserved.

PAGE 54. XXXIV.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We grete you wele. Our unchangeable resolutioun evir to prouyde for the peace of the Church of Oure haill Dominionis, and specialie of that Oure Kingdome of Scotland, wherin Oure cair and panes ar manifest to the world, and best known to your selffis, having moved Ws for preventing of the neidles questionis and troubles whiche might haif ariffin in the nixt Generall Assemblye of the said Church, yf ony fuld haif meant to haif annullit or alterit the Actis maid and concludit in preceding Assemblyis haldin in Oure presence, to send missiues and infructiounis, whilkis wer presentit be Oure Commissionaris to euery particular Synode, craving thair approbatioun of that Oure desyre, onlie tending to thair awne weil and quietnes; and thairin being frustrat of that expectit consent, whiche We could neuir haif supposit that ony wyfe or peaceable Minister wald haue refusit or delayit to gif, and thairby being forder perswadit of that whiche befor We could hardlie beleve that ony greate appearanceis wer sene of contentioun, trouble, and diuisione lyklye to arise in the said nixt Generall Assemblye, vnles ordour wer wyllie tane befor thair convening for preventing of all suche occasionis and hurtefull effectis, Thairfoir We haif directit Our missiues¹ to ane goode number of the Ministerie thair of the greatest learning and experience, commanding thame to repair towardis Ws, to the effect that We being trewly informed by thame of the distrustis, dislykeingis, grevis, and éleitis fallin furth among thame selffis, and euer lyklye to increise, and of the most cheritable, easie, and permanent remedyis thairof, We nicht conclude, and spedilie cause publishe Oure resolutioun and will thairanent: And albeit We eirnestlie desirit this to be done with all possibill diligence,

¹ The missives referred to were dated at Greenwich. the 21st of May 1606: See page 48 of the present collection, and Calderwood's History, vol. vi. p. 478. The result of the Conference at Hampton Court, in September following, is well known.

yitt knowing that a goode number of these, quhose presence is necessarie at that Oure conference and deliberatioun, may not wele be absent from the Parliament of Scotland, and that the tyme of Oure Progres will no way be proper for that meiting, for want of lafer tyme and convenient place. Thairfoir, We haif appointed thame to be heir preceissie befor the fyftene day of September nixt, then to begin and with diligence to proceed to the goode conclusioun of that treatye which necessarlic mon proceed the holding of the said Generall Asssembly, as ane preparatioun of the peaceable convening, modest proceeding, and godlie conclusioun of the same, whiche We haif thought goode with diligence to signifie vnto you. to the effect you might caus dew and lauchfull intimatioun and publicatioun thairof, and of the necessair caus of Continuatioun of the said Generall Assemblic, to the last Tuesday of May nixtto come, wherin assuring Oure selff of youre diligence, We bid you hairtelie fairwele. From Oure Courte of Grenewiche, the 24 day of Junij 1606.

To Oure right trusty and weilbelouit Cofines
and Counfellouris, The Erll of Dunfermling
Oure Chancellour, and remanent
Lordis, and otheris of Oure Priuey Coun-
sell of Scotland.

PAGE 59. LINE 6.

[In the introductory note to this "Report," &c., delete the sentence, "The name of the writer, &c." as it appears the original is not in the handwriting either of Sempill or Murray. In the foot-note, at page 62, the last line, in place of "Sir David Murray of Gorthy was Tutor to Prince Henry," it should read, "Sir David Murray of Gorthy, author of 'The Tragical Death of Sophonisba,' and other poems, was knighted on the 26th of May 1605. In 1610, in the List of the Royal Household, he is styled Groome of the Stole to the Prince."]

PAGE 67. XXXVIII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right truſtie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you wele: We haue ſent vnto you, by Oure Secretarſe, Oure mynd and pleaſour in diuers thingis concerning the Eſtate of that Oure Kingdome, both anent the ſetling of Heylandis and Bordouris; and alſo by him We haif directit the ſignificatioun of Our will, allwele tuiching thoſe Miniſteris who are conuict of treafoun as the otheris in warde,¹ who wer neuer broght to thair tryale, and thairwith a Proclamatioun for inhibiting this bold preſumptioun of ſome of the Miniſterie of that Kingdome in praying for thoſe Miniſteris who ar for treafoun juſtlic condemned, as yf thay wer proſequuted; wherin We ar to gif you in ſpeciall charge, as you will anſuer to Ws thervpoun, That incaife ony, efter the publicatioun of that Oure Proclamatioun, fall offend agane the fame, that you do procede with all rigour aganis thame, by inſlicing the puniſhment preſcryved in the fame: That ſo Oure commandimentis ſent to you be not vſed as naked ſhewis or ſcarcrowis for affraying of men, and no forder, whiche is the way to mak offendouris to increſie, bot We wold, that by your proceeding with rigour agane ſome, otheris may be putt in juſt feare to offend. In lykemaner, We haif ſend vnto you a Proclamatioun aganis Papiftis, Jeſuitis, and Seminaryis, that the Actis formarlie maid concerning thame may be putt to executioun with rigour, wherin We mynd to tak tryall in whom the blayme lyeth, that ſince Oure coming from thence the number of Papiftis in that Oure Kingdome hath ſo michtelie encreſied, and that Jeſuitis and Preiftis haue bene ſo oppinlie reſett and intertenyed, and no ordour tane thairwith, and that thair is hole familieis of Recenfantis, and mony of thame intertenyed in Noblemenis houſis and companiis, wherunto, yf tymelic remedie be not prouydit, beyde the danger to the preſent profeſſit

¹ The Proclamation referred to was made at the Cross of Edinburgh, on the 13th of October 1606, and is printed in Calderwood's History, vol. vi. p. 583.

Religioun, the fame may importe very muche hurte and damage to the Efflate; and thairfoir, willing you to tak ane exact ordour, according as We haue imparted Oure mynd at length to Oure Secretar ye in this mater, affureing you that We will demand ane exact compt of your diligence and willingnes heirin, We bid you richt hairtelie fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Hamptoun Courte, the 26 of September 1606.

To Oure richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, The Erl of Dunfermling, Oure Chancellour, and remanent Lordis, and otheris of Oure Priuey Counfell in that Oure Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 68. XXXIX.†

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Linlithgow, xiiij die mensis Octobris 1606.

Sederunt—

CHANCELLAIR.	M ^R OF LOWTHEANE.	PREVEY SEILL.
HAMILTOUN.	M ^R OF ELPHINSTOUN.	COLLECTOUR.
ANGUS.	B. OF ROSS.	QUITTINGHAME.
LINLITHGOW.	B. OF DUNKELD.	CRANSTOUNRIDDILL.
ABIRCOIRNE.	MURDOCAIRNY.	CLERK OF REGISTER.
BALMERINOKH.	JUSTICE CLERK.	SIR JOHNNE ARNOT.

Charge aganis the Wardit Ministeris.

FORSAMEIKLE as the Kingis Maicstie following his accoutumat naturall dispositioun and inclinatioun to mercy hauing this hail yeir bigane fairborne to declair his Maicsteis will aganis Mr Charlis Ferme, Mr Johne Monro, Johne Ross, Mr Robert Youngfoun, Mr James Irwing, Mr Williame Forbes, Mr James Greg, and Mr Nathane Inglis, who, by a decrite of the Lordis of Priuey Counsale, beiring dait the xxiiij day of October last bypast, wer decernit and ordanit to be punisht at his

Heynes will and pleasour, for that insolent and contemptuous keiping and halding of ane Conuenticle, vnder pretext of a Generall Afflemble, at the Burgh of Abirdeyne, vpoun the second day of Julij the year of God I^m vj^e and fyve yeiris, His Majestie eur hoiping that thay fould haue acknawledgeit thair offence, and humelic craved his Heynes pardon for the fame: Bot feing His Majesteis grite lenitie and lang suffering hes productit nothing in thame bot ane obstinat and wilfull continewance in thair stubborne and contemptuous humour and errour, and His Majestie foirfeing that impunitie mycht gif occasioun to others to comit the lyke infolence heirefter, Thairfoir His Majestie, by his letters patent, signed with his awne hand, hes declairit his will aganis the saidis personis in maner following, to wit, That the said Mr Charlis Ferme falbe confyned to the boundis of the Ile of Bute, the said Johnne Rofs to the Ile of the Lewis, the said Mr Johnne Monro to the boundis of Kintyre, the said Mr Robert Youngfoun to the boundis of the Ile of Arrane, the said Mr James Irwing to the boundis of the Ilandis of Orknay, the said Mr William Forbes to the boundis of the Illis of Zetland, the said Mr James Greg to the boundis of Caithnes, and Mr Nathane Inglis to the boundis of Suthirland, as in the letter foirsaid. contening the declaratioun of His Majesties said will, of the dait, at Hamptoun Court, the xxvj day of September last beiris: Thairfoir the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile Ordanis letters to be direct chairgeing Officiaris of Airmes to pas and mak intimatioun and publicatioun heirof to the saidis personis, quhairthrow thay pretend na ignorance of this fame, and to command and chairge thame and euery ane of thame to conforme thame felffis to His Majesteis said will, and to prepair thame felffis within the space of ane moneth to repair to the boundis particularie aboue written, and not to depairt thairfra without licence of His Majestie, according to His Heynes said will, vnder the paine of death.

Declaratioun of the Kingis Will aganis the Wardit Ministeris.

[JAMES R.]

Quhairas by a decrite of Our Secrite Counsell, of this dait, at Edinburgh, the xxiiij day of October last bypast, Mr Charlis Ferme, Mr

Johnne Monro, Johnne Rofs, Mr Robert Youngfoun, Mr James Irwing, Mr William Forbes, Mr James Greg, Mr Nathane Inglis, wer, for the holding of a contemptuous Conventicle vnder pretext of a Generall Affemblic, decerned to be punifhed (as committeris of fuche ane infolent ryott) at Oure will and pleafoure, and hithirtillis, vponn hoip of thair refipifcence, We haue abfteyned frome declaratioun of Oure will, quhairof, finding no effectis bot thair fill continewance in thair accuftomet itbernes, Thairfore, by thir prefentis, We declair Oure Will that the faid Mr Charlis Ferne falbe confyned to the boundis of the Ile of Bute, the faid Johnne Rofs to the Ile of the Lewis, the faid Mr Johnne Monro to the boundis of Kintyre, the faid Mr Robert Youngfoun to the boundis of the Ile of Arrane, the faid Mr James Irwing to the boundis of the Iylendis of Orkney, the faid Mr William Forbes to the boundis of the Iyllis of Zetland, the faid Mr James Greg to the boundis of Caithnes, the faid Mr Nathane Inglis to the boundis of Suthirland, thair to keip ward and exerce the functioun of thair minifterie, keip and oberue Oure lawis, quhilkis falbe fet down allwele for the Ciuile as Ecclefiastieque gouernament, and that thay prepar thame felfis, within the fpace of ane moneth, vnder the pane of deith, and not to depart thairfra without Oure fpeciall licence, vnder the faid pane. Gevin at Oure Courte of Hampton Court, the xxvj day of September 1606.

*Directioun to Sir Johnne Arnot auent the transporting of
the Convictit and Wardit Ministeris.*

The Lordis of Secrite Counfale, according to the Kingis Maieftis fpeciall will, pleafoure, and directioun, Ordanis and commandis Sir Johnne Arnote, Thefaurer Depute, to mak dew and tymous prouifion of fchipping, and otherwyfe, for the transporting of the Ministeris aganis quhome His Majestie hes declairit his will furth of the realme, and to the partis and placeis quhairvnto thay ar confynned, in maner fpecificit in the Declaratioun of His Majestis faid will; quhairauent thir prefentis falbe vnto the faid Sir Johnne Arnot ane fufficient warrand.

PAGE 73. XLII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Coufingis and Counfallouris, We grite yow hairtlic weill: Qubairas it may fall furth that sum of the Presbitryis being too muche addicted to this anarchie and confusioun in the Estate of the Church of that Oure Kingdome, will refuse to admitt and refflue such ane Constant Moderatour as hes bene concludit upoun in the Generall Affemblem laitlic haldin in that Oure Kingdome. As in lyke maner perhappis some of those Moderatouris that ar ehofin (pretending thair conscientious zeale to all paritie, and rather wishing a continewing volubilitie than ony fetled and constant forme of Gouvernament in the Church) will mak a schew of refuse of ony Supremacie about thair Brethrene; yitt becaus heirby the whole proccidingis of that Affemblem may turne ineffectuall, yf the refuse outhere of the one or the other wer ony way tollerat, it is thairfore Oure pleasour and will that yow direct chargeis aganis ony suche Presbitryis or Moderatouris that fall mak ony suche refuse, commanding thame, vnder pane of horning, to conforme thame felfis to the will of the said Affemblem: In doing quhair of yow fall do Ws acceptable fernice, and so We bid yow richt hairtlic fairwele. From Oure Palice of Whytehall, the third of Januar 1607.¹

To Oure richt trustie [&c., *ut supra*, p. 368.*]

PAGE 75. XLIII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO LORD BALMERINOCHE.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofine and Counfellour, We greete

¹ In the Register of Privy Council, the above letter is also inserted, and followed by a Charge for receiving the Constant Moderators, who are specially named, agreeable to

you weele: We doubt not bot you do sufficientlie remember with quhair cair We did direct your selff, at your last being heir, to haif a speciall charge and regard to the obseruation of that Oure Proclamatioun, prohibiting the Ministeris of that Oure Kingdome to mak mentiou of those otheris Ministeris quho wer gaultie of that proude contemptuous Comenticle, and thairefter of heich treason, in thair publick prayeris, as for thair afflicted and persecuted Brethren: And albeit by mony generall letters sent from your selff, We wer putt in assurance that the keeping of that proclamatioun shuld be aduertit vnto, and that the transgressouris thair of shuld be seuerlie procedit aganis, according to the tenour of the same: Yitt neuertheles We do heir and hes ressaunt particular aduertisment that in mony partis of that Oure Kingdome, yea in the very presence of some of Our awne Counsell, and in places verie neir vnto your selff, these prayeris, in plane contempt of that Oure proclamatioun, haif bene publick maid in pulpettis, and the partyis transgressouris nevir challengit, whiche forme of connivence at thair doings dois not onlie embolden these Ministeris, and vtheris of that functioun, vpon presumptioun of impunitie to misregaird Oure commandmentis, bot also this great oversight in Oure Counsell dois minister very iust occasion of offence vnto Us in finding thame so cairles in a mater so neirlic tuicheing Us, and cairfullie directit by Us; quhairin to free the both your selff and otheris of Oure Counsell of this iust imputatioun aganis yow, yee most tak speciall tryale quhair this offence hes bene committed, and presentlie tak ordour thairwith, by inflictig the dew punishment appointed vpon such as salbe foundin to haif trespassed thairin, that so Oure goode former opinioun of the cair and watehesfulness of Oure Counsell thair in all Oure directionis may continew: And so We bid you hairtelie fairwele. At Oure Pallace of Whytchall, the 21 of Februarye 1607.

To Oure trustie and weilbelouit Counsellour,

The Lord of Bahmerinoch, Oure Secretarje.

the appointment of the General Assembly held at Linlithgow, in December 1606. The Charge is printed in Calderwood's History, vol. vi. p. 631.

PAGE 75. XLIII.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

*Apud Edinburgh, xxiij die mensis Februarij 1607.**Charge aganis Mr Charles Ferme and Mr Johnne Monro.*

FORSAMEKLE as Maister Chairlis Ferme and Mr Johnne Monro being committit to waird within the Castell of Downe in Menteith, and directioun being gevin for transporting of thame thairfra to the placeis appointit for thair confyning and wairding, They haue in the meantyme, without ony lauchfull warrand or releif, broken waird, and eschaiped furth of the said Castell, and ar past hame to thair awne dwelling houffes, or sic uther partis of the countrey quhair they pleis, in heich contempt and misregaird of oure Souerane Lord his auctoritie and lawis: Thairfore the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile ordanis letters to be direct chargeing the saidis personis to compeir personalie before the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile, vpoun the [21st] day of [May] nixtto cum, to anfuer to the premisses, and to vndirly punisshement for the same, as appertenis, vndir the pane of rebellious, &c., with certificatioun, &c.¹

PAGE 76. XLIV.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO LORD BALMERINOUCH.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit, We greete you hairtly wele: Wheras, for some speciall caus of Oure seruice, and for the wele, benefite, and quietnes of the Church of that Oure Kingdome, We haif thought meete to reteyne these seven Ministeris (whose names you fall

¹ On the 28th of May, Ferme and Monro were denounced for not compearing. About the same time, charges against the other Ministers were directed for disobeying the orders of Privy Council.

reſſave within cloſed^h) ſome certane ſpace ſtill in this Kingdome; to the effect thair congregationis and flockis want not the preaching of the Worde now in thair abſence, It is Oure ſpeciall pleaſour and will that you gif ſpeciall direſtioun to theſe Preſbytryis quhairwith the ſaidis Miniſteris did remayne, willing thame by viciffitudes and turnes to cauſe the Brethrenne of that Preſbytrei ſupplee the abſence of thair Brother, by preaching the Worde and miniſtring of the Sacramentis to his Congregatioun and flocke, which being a deid full of brotherlie love and godlie charitie, We putt no doubt bot men of thair functioun will moſt willinglie vndergo it, and ſo We bid you richt hairtelie fairwele. Frome Oure Pallace of Quhytehall, the fyft of Marche 1607.

To Oure truſtie and weilbelouit Counſellour,
The Lord of Balmerinoch, Oure principall
Secretarie of Scotland.

PAGE 85. L.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truſtie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counſellouris, We greete you wele: The repourt of that late difordourlie miſbehaviour of ſome Miniſteris in the lately kept Synode at Perth having gevin vnto Ws moir than juſt cauſe of offence, as We cannot bot thairin muche commend your cairfulnes in direſting theſe charges of horning aganis theſe diſtemperit Brethrenne of the Miniſterie, ffor the whiche We do gif vnto you Oure hairy thankis; ſo, ſince this proude contempt remaining unpuniſhed muſt needis produce vpon the example of thair impunitie a grite bauldnes and audacitie in otheris to offend, It is thairfor Oure will and pleaſour that immediatlie vpon the reſlett heirof, chairgeis of horning be direct by you in Oure name, chargeing and commanding the Brethrenne of the Preſbytrie of Perth that thay ſpeciallie chuſe and elect Mr Alexander Lindſay to be thair Moderatour, diſchargeing and

[†] The names are not ſpecified, but ſee *ſupra*, p. 67.

prohibiting, vnder the same pane, ony vther Minister within that Presbytrie to accept the said office of Moderatour vpoun him, and thairwith that eache Presbytrie within that Synode be commandit and chargeit, vnder the pane foirfaid, that thay nor nane of thame acknowlege nor putt to executioun the Actis and Conclusioun of that late Synode at Perth; and als, that you caus speciallic charge Mr Henry Levingstoun, pretendit Moderatour chofin at the said Synodale Affëmbley, togidder with Mr William Row, Moderatour of the preceding, to compeir befor you, and after taking tryale of thair contemptuous and vnordourlie misbehaniour, and of the abusing of Oure trustie and weilbelouit Cosine and Counfellow, the Lord of Scone, Oure Comptroller^r at that meiting, That thay be committed be you within Oure Castell of Blaknes, thair to be retentit quhill Oure forder pleafour and will be knowne; and becaus Oure said Commissiouner lies bene fo irreverentlie regardit at that meiting of those Ministeris in that Synode of Perth, it is thairfoir Oure pleafour and will that all keiping of that Synode heirefter be expresse prohibite and dischargeit by proclamatioun ay and quhill that vpoun aduertisment maid vnto Ws of sufficient satisfacioun maid by thame for that thair offence alreddy committed, We may be moved to gif vnto thame licence and toleratioun for keeping of thair Synode; and forasmuche as efter the dissolving of that Synode of Perth thair was immediatlie thairefter a prevey Conuenticle keipit by those Ministeris, athouris of the other misbehaniour, wherin whateuir wes done by Mr Williame Row in the former wes then approuin, and directioun gevin to intimat thair resolutiounes to the rest of the Provinciaill Affëmbley within that Oure Kingdome, We ar thairfoir to recommend vnto you the taking tryall particularlie of those that did meite at that Conuenticle, and to proceed aganis thame in rigour, according to the warrant of Oure lawis thair. And since the cairlesnes of Magistratis within Burghis and Citeyis hes muche emboldenit the foolish foirt of the Ministerie within the same to speeke oftymes too rashlie and vnadvisedlie, sometyme by reafoun of the Magistratis absence from fermone,

¹ Calderwood has given a minute and interesting account of the proceedings at this Synod, and of the outrageous conduct of Lord Scone in attempting to prevent the meeting from electing a Moderator, according to their former usual practice in such cases.

and prefumeing albeit he wer present that neuirtheles he wald not controll thame, howfoevir liberallie thay fould speik ather aganis We or Oure Estate; for whiche caus Oure will is that it be published by proclamatioun that the Magiftratis within eache Burgh or Citie in that Oure Kingdome, at least some of thame, be present at euerie fermone to be maid within ony of these cityis or burrowis, and fall gif warning to all siche as fall ather preache or exercise within the same, to abstene frome all mater inuectiue or ony way dirogatorye to the Actis of the Generall Assembleyis maid for the peace of the Churche, nanelie, of those wherat ather We or Oure Commissioner wes present; and in caise ony whofoevir, ather in preacheing or exercise, fall heirefter happin to offend in ony of those pointis, that then the Magiftratis thairof fall dilait the same to Oure Counsell, and gif sufficient informatioun thairof, and furneis probatioun of the same, and that within aucht dayis ester ony siche thing be vterit, vnder the pane of horning; and willing you to haif a speeciall cair, with all expeditioun, for the dispatcheing of thir Oure directiounis, We bid you hairtelie fairwele. Frome Roistoun, this xx of Aprile 1607.

To Oure trallie and weilbelouit Cosines and
Counsellouris, The Erl of Dunbar [Dunfermling], Oure Chancellour, and remanent
Lordis, and otheris of Oure Preuey Counsell of that Oure Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 89. LIV.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO MR ROBERT BRUCE.

TRAIST FRENDE,

Efter oure verie hairtlie commendatiounis, among findrie directiounis come heir from his Maiestie, it hes pleast his Heynes in particulier to remember, That your resolutioun in the mater of Gourie be craved, as by that article of his Maielties directiounis, whiche is sett down in the wordis following, you may persaue:—" It is Oure pleafour that

Oure Counfell fall with diligence direct thair letters to Mr Robert Bruce, to crave of him his resolutioun in the mater of Gowrye, whiche We walde be glaid to see vnder the hand of the said Mr Robert Bruce." And seeing this mater is yitt recent in his Maiefties memorie, and that his Maieftie wald be glaid to haif satisfiatioun be your resolutioun thairanent, these ar thairfoir to requiest and desyre you effectuoullie, that with this beirar you will retorne vnto ws, in write vnder your hand, your opinioun and resolutioun in the mater foirsaid,¹ to the effect we may fend the same vp to his Maieftie, and that you will sett the same down in als cleir and sensible termis, as to your awne opinioun and iudgement may best stand with his Maiesties contentment and satisfiatioun, wherein, as you fall do vnto ws a singlar pleasour, so we doubt not bot his Maieftie will the moir fauourable iudge of you and your actiounis heirefter; and sua, expecting your answer in wryte with the beirair, committis you to God. Frome Edinburgh, the second of Junij 1607.

A. CANCELLS.

SECRETAR.

SIR T. HAMILTON.

R. COKBURNE.

CLĒ REGISTRĪ.

LOTHEANE.

HALYRUDHOUSE.

JO. PRESTOUN.

J. COKBURNE.

PAGE 89. LIV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counfallouris, We greete you weele: Vnderstanding of the apprehensioun of one M^cKie,

¹ As noticed in note ¹, page 81, the two letters of Bruce, printed in this collection as Nos. XII. and XIII., belong to June 1607, being those here referred to by the Privy Council. The quotation in that note varies somewhat in expression from their letter of the 26th of June as inserted in the Acts of Council (Royal Letters, p. 81.) It reads thus:—"According to your Maiesteis directioun, we write to Mr Robert Bruce anent his resolutioun in the mater of Gowry, who hes written his awne mynd thairanent to your Maieftie, which, with his letter sent to ws, we haif heirwith send vp to your Maieftie."

Preift, by the Bifhop of Murray, and that he is lying in prifone within Onre Burgh of Edinburgh, in the Tolbuith thairof; as We muft accompt the fame as a fpeciall and acceptable goode fervice done vnto Ws, fo will We be loathe that the inlaik or warrant or commiffioun to the faid Bifhop for taking of the faid Preift fould heirefter infer to him ony preiudice or inconuenient: And thairfoir Our pleafour and will is, that you pas and expeid ane fpeciall Act of Counfall in fauouris of the faid Bifhop of Murray, authorifing his proceedingis in the taking and apprehenfion of the faid Preift, nochtwithftanding of his wanting of commiffioun for that effect, declairing him to be free of all dangeir, harme, or fkaith quhatfoeur thairby, quhairnent thir presents falbe vnto you fufficient warrant. From Onre Courte at Grenewiche, the third of Junij 1607.

PAGE 93. LV.†

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, Decimo sexto die mensis Junij 1607.

Act in fauouris of the Bifhop of Murray.

FORSAMEKLE as William Murdo, Preift, who fallie callit himfelf William M^cKy, haueing this lang tyme bigane remanit in the North pairtis of this Kingdome, perfuading and teiching diuers of the inhabitants thairof to renounce thair trew religioun, and to embrace his Papifticall and erroneus opinoun, he wes laitlie tane be Alexander Bifhop of Murray, and fend heir to the Burgh of Edinburgh, quhair he now remanis in ward within the Tolbuith thairof; and feing the Bifhop, movit [he] zeale to the trew religioun, and for fuppreffing of the aduerfairis thairof, take and apprehendit the faid William without a warrant or commiffioun: Thairfoir, and to the effect that his proceedingis in that mater be not impute to him as a cryme or offence heirefter, the Lordis of Secrite Counfell authorizeis, allowis, and approvis the faid Bifhoppis proceedingis in the taking and apprehending of the faid Preift, and fending of him heir to the Burgh of Edinburgh, and declairis

that thairin he hes done guid seruice to his Maieftie and his countrey, and exoneris him of all pane, cryme, fkaith, and dainger that he may incur thairthrow for euir be thir presentis.

PAGE 96. LVIII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfallouris, We greete you wele: Oure godlie and zealous intentioun of establisfing of quietnes and goode ordour in the Church of that Oure Kingdome, for the better flourisheing of the Gospell, and of the Religioun presentlie professit, having bene hithertillis many wayis thortoured by the vnreulie, turbulent, and vnquiet spirittis of some of the Ministerie, who, howfoeuir of dewytie thay aucht to haif bene the preacouris of peace and obedience, did neuirtheless in thair aëtionis try fyrebrandis of firyffe and diffenfioun: So now, also, that same good resolutionn of Ouris is impedit by the mischeant, inconstancye, and volubilitye of some of those whome We did chuse as goode instrumentis to the furtherance of the worke, who being ather led by some fantaftik opinioun of thair awne, or thair being of full intentioun to oppose thame sellis directlie to the progres of that work by thair outward aëtionis, kyith direct contradictouris thairto, as in speciall the Bischop of Abirdeyne, at the last Sessioun of Parliament in Perth, as also at that Generall Assemblye keepit at Lynlythgw, and laitlie now befor you of Oure Counsell thair, the tyme of geving his Oath of Obedyence,¹ he did cleirlye manifest his froward and

¹ According to the Register of Privy Council, the Bishop of Aberdeen had taken the Oath of Allegiance in the usual form:—" *Apud Edinburgh, xxij die mensis Junij, Anno, etc., 1607.* The quhilk day, Petir Bischop of Abirdene, and Alexander Bischop of Murray, compearand personallie befor the Lordis of Secrite Counsale, they and athir of thame gais their soleunne and grite Aith for acknawelegeing of oure Soverane Lordis Royall power and auctoritie, according to the Forme of Aith specifieit in the Act of the dait the second day of Junij instant." The Archbishops and Bishops, at other several times, took the Oath in precisely similar terms.

euill inclynit dispositioun in all thir materis; and as We ar forder certified, ather by his direct doing, or at least be his ouerficht and toleration, without finding ony fault thairwith, that Mr John M^cBirnie,¹ Minister (one whose vnquiet spiritt hes maid him euir a frequent remouair from place to place, nather desyring to be a lang remayner ony quhair, nor contenting his flocke quhair he did stay, bot being of ane vnsetled bothe mynd and residence), could be laithie placit as actuall Minister at Oure burgh of Abirdeyne, being one of the cheif and principall burrowis of that Oure Kingdome, without Oure knowledge, or the consent of the Ministeris of the Generall Asssembly, by whose placing thair no better frute can be expectit than the lyke of that proude Conuenticle at Abirdeyne, which did importe so muche disquietnes to the Estate of that Churche. And thairfoir, as We haif geuin ordour to the Commissionaris of the Asssembly for the present displaccing of the said Mr Johne, and dischargeing of him to preiche ony forder thair: So, in regard of the Bischoppis awne offence in this matter, in presomeing at his hand, without Oure knowledge, or consent of the Commissionairs, to plant suche a Minister in one of Oure cheif burrowis, at least he being guiltie of conniuece in not finding fault thairwith, it is Oure pleasour and will that you call the said Bischop befoir you, and yf you do trye the planting of the said Mr Johne to haue procedit vpon the causing command or directioun of the said Bischop, Oure will is that vpon your trying thairof, you committt him presentlie in warde within some of Oure Castellis, and thairefter acquent Ws with the same, that We may thairupone retorne Oure forder pleasour and will; Bot yff otherwayis you do finde no wilfull offence in him, bot a point of negli-

¹ Mr John M^cBirnie, "a most zealous and painfull pastor, a great opposer of hierarchie," was admitted Minister of Ferry-Port-on-Craig, 10th May 1604, and was translated to Aberdeen in 1605. At the meeting of the Commissioners of the Kirk at Falkland, in October 1607, Calderwood mentions, that "Mr John Macbirnie being summoned for preaching against Bishops and Constant Moderators, conpeared, and promised to meddle no more with these contraverted points in pulpit before the people, but only to preach Christ Jesus, whill he saw his tyme; whilk (resolution, we are told) was admitted." But the Historian, in his great zeal, adds, "Good Brethren were offended."—(History, vol. vi., p. 682.) According to Row of Carnock, he died at Whitsunday 1609.—(History, Wodrow Society edit., p. 421.)

gence in not finding fault thairwith, Oure pleafour is that you admonithe him of his dewyitic, afflureing him that yf he fould committ ony of fuehe ovirflightis beirefter, that the fame fhall not be ouerflipped vnpunifheit: And remitting this mater to your cair and diligence, We bid you richt hairtelie fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Greenwich, the thrid of Julij 1607.

To Oure richt truffie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfallouris, the Erl of Dunfermling, Oure Chancellor, and remanent Lordis, and utheris of Oure Preuey Counfell of that Oure Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 98. LIX.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truffie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greet you weele: Wheras in the granting to Maifter James Balfour,¹ Minifter, licence to returne back to that Kingdome, vpoun certane considerationis iustlie moving Ws, We did confyne him within the toune of Colbrandifpeth, and two myles about the fame, and vpoun fome fpeciall motives knawne to Our felff, We finding it expedyent that he be removed from thenfe, Oure pleafour and will is that you caus chargeis be direct in Our name to command the faid Mr James Balfour, with all poffible haift, to remove frome thenfe, and to repair to the town of Awfurde, within Our Schirefdome of Abirdeyne, thair to abyde and remane, and no way to depart furth of the boundis of the Paroche of Awfurde, vnder the pane of rebelloun, &c.; willing you thairwith to

¹ Mr James Balfour was one of the Ministers of Edinburgh: See note to the letter in his favour, printed at page 170, as No. CI. Upon the above order to change the place of his confinement, on the 11th of August, he "was convoyed out of Edinburgh by the Magistrates and some of the Council. Being diseased, he stayed at Inuerkeithing, and went not to Anford."—(Calderwood's Hist., vol. vi. p. 668.)

gif ſpeciall warrant for his diſcharge of remaneing at Colbrandiſpeth, quhairas he lies bene heirtfoir confyned; and heiranent theſe preſents falbe vnto you a warrant: So We bid you faireweele. Frome Oure Courte at Theobaldis, the xij of Julij 1607.

To Oure richt truttie, [*&c. ut ſupra.*]

PAGE 99. LX.†

HIJ MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE DUKE OF LENNOX.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truttie and weilbelouit Cofine and Counſellour, We greeete you weele: For obſeruing of goode ordour in this Parliament, and ſpeciallie in your Rydeing from Oure Pallace of Halirudhous to Oure Parliament Houſe, as the Marquiſſes ar to preceede immediatlie befor the Honnours that ar borne, ſo We wald haif the two Archiebiſchoppis to ryde in the rank befor thame immediatelic, and then all the Erllis, two and two togidder, according to thair Antiquitie, to ryde befor the ſaidis Archiebiſchoppis of that Kingdome, two and two in rank, and befor the ſaidis Erllis the Biſchoppis of that Kingdome, two and two in rank, and befor the ſaidis Biſchoppis the Lordis of Parliament, two and two in rank, in lykemaner; that as the Archiebiſchoppis do gif place to the Marquiſſes, and the Erllis to the Archiebiſchoppis, and the Biſchoppis to Erllis, ſo the Lordis may gif place to the ſaidis Biſchoppis: Which forme and ordour We wald haif obſerued, not onlie in thair Rydeing bot in thair Voiting in the Parliament Houſe: And heirof deſyring you to be cairfull, We bid you richt hairtelic fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Oatlandis, the 24 of Julij 1607.

To Oure richt truttie and weilbelouit Cofine
and Counſellour, The Duke of Lennox,
Oure Heich Commiſſioner in the Parlia-
ment of Oure Kingdom of Scotland.

PAGE 99. LX.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, Ultimo die mensis Julij 1607.

Sederunt—

LENNOX.	B. OF SANCTANDROIS.	ROXBURGH.	PREVEY SEILL.
CHANCELLAIR.	B. OF GLASGOW.	BALMERINOCII.	ADUOCAT.
ERGYLE.	B. OF ABERDENE.	TORPIECHEN.	COLLECTOUR.
MARSHAILL.	B. OF MURRAY.	SCONE.	BRUNT ILAND.
MAR.	B. OF CAITHNES.	HERREISS.	CLERK OF REGISTER.
WYNTOUN.	B. OF GALLOWAY.	CULLROISS.	SPOT.
KINGHORNE.	B. OF ORKNAY.	M ^r OF LOWTHREANE.	SIR JAMES HAY.
LOWTHEANE.	B. OF BRECHIN.	M ^r OF ELPHINSTOUN.	SIR JOHNE ARNOT.
VICOUNT FENTOUN.	B. OF DUNBLANE.	CONSTABLE OF DUNDIE.	KILSYTH.
VCHILTRIE.	HALYRUDHOUSE.	M ^c KANZIE.	FOISTERSAIT.
SALTOUN.	TUNGLAND.	JUSTICE CLERK.	

Anent the ranking and voiting of the Bischopis in the Parliament.

THE Lordis of Secrite Counsale remembering how that of auld the Bischopis of this Kingdome who represented the Spirituall Estate wer ever preferrit, rankit, and voitit in Parliamentis and Generall Counfallis before the Lordis of the Temporall Estate, and the Lordis of Secrite Counsale being weill myndit that in this present Seffioun of Parliament, and in all tymes heirefter, the saidis Bischopis fall haue the lyk place and rank as thair predicessouris formarie brukit and possit. Thairfore the saidis Lordis statuteis and ordanis that in this Parliament, and in all Parliamentis heirefter, the Archbischopis and Bischopis fall ryde in Estate to the Parliament Houfe immediatlie before the Honouris, and that thay salbe rankit before the hail Temporall Estate, and fall voit before thame.

PAGE 109. LXVI.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counfellouris, We greete you wele: Quhairas We haif prouydit Mr Robert Howye to the

Prouetrie of the New Colledge of Sanctandros, vacand by deprivation of Mr Andro Meluill, last Prouest thairof,¹ who for his misbehaviour and otheris his greate offensis does remane heir in prisone, and the said Mr Robert can no way haif aecess to these rowmes that belong to him by his place, by reason thay ar schut up and lockit; and thairfoir Oure pleafour and will is that you direct a speciall commissioun ather to the Chancellor of the Uniuerfitie or to ony vther whome you think meitest, to mak oppin duris, and to voyde furthe of these rowmes formerlie possesit be the said Mr Andro suche goodis and stufte as did peculiarie belong to him, and to caus putt these goodis in sum sure keiping, vnder Inventair to be maid furtheuhand, and thairefter to delyuer the keys of the saidis rowmes to the said Mr Robert, to the effect that he, as Prouest of the said Colledge, may posses the same. And so We bid you fairwele. From Oure Courte at Windfoir, the saxt of September 1607.

To Oure trusty and weilbelouit Cosines and
 Counsellouris, The Erll of Dumfermling,
 Oure Chancellor, and remanent Lordis and
 otheris of Oure Preuey Counsell of that
 Oure Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 109. LXVI.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, Halvruudhouse, xxiij die mensis Septembris 1607.

Warrant for making oppin duris of Mr Andro Meluillis chabmer.

Forsamekle as Mr Robert Howy being lauchfullie and ordourlie proyndit to the Prouetrie of the New Colledge of Sanctandros, quhilk

¹ Melville, along with several Ministers, was summoned to the conference at Hampton Court, in September 1606: See the Report of the Conference, *supra*, p. 59-67. He was deprived of his charge as Provost of the New College of St Andrews, and after four years imprisonment in the Tower of London, in April 1611 he was permitted to embark for France. He became a Professor in the University of Sedan, where he died in 1622. His Life, by the late Dr McCrie, is a work well known and appreciated.

wes vacand be deprivation of Mr Andro Meluill, last Prouest thair of, who for his misbehaviour dois presentlie remane in presone, and the said Mr Robert, be virtew of his prouision and admissioun to the said place and office, hauing rycht to these chalmers houffes and rowmes within the said College quhilkis formarlie wer posselt and occupyt be the said Mr Andro, neuirtheles the duris of the saidis chalmers houffes and rowmes ar schote closed and locket, sua that the said Mr Robert can haue no access thairin, to the grit hinder of his study and discharge of his function within the said College: Thairfore the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile gevis and grantis full power and commiffioun to ane Renerend father in God, George Archibishop of Sanctandros, Chancellor of the said Uniuersitie,¹ to caus mak oppin duris of the saidis chalmers houffes and rowmes formerlie posselt be the said Mr Andro, and to remove and voyd furth thair of siche guidis and stuf as did peculiarie belong to him, and to caus put the same guidis in suir keiping, vndir inventair to be maid furthemand to the said Mr Andro and vtheris haueing entres, and thairefter to caus deliner the keyis of the saidis rowmes to the said Mr Robert, to the effect that he, as Prouest of the said College, may posses the same. quhairanent thir presentis salbe vnto the said Archibishop ane warrand.

PAGE 109. LXVI.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counsellouris, We greete you weele: Vnderstanding of the insolent cariage and misbehaviour of Mr Johne Dykis, Mr Johne Cowdom, and [Mr John] Skryngeour, Ministeris, in the last Synode of Fyffe keepit at Dyfert,² and how

¹ Bishop Gladstones, in his letter. *supra*. p. 118, seems not to have been flattered in being thus employed "to execute the part of a secular Shireff."

² Of these three Fife Ministers, Dykes was Minister of Kilrenny, Cowden of Kinross, and Scrimgeour of Kinghorn. The Synod was held at Dysart on the 28th of August. Calderwood gives a curious account of the speeches that passed between Archbishop Gladstones and Mr John Cowden, the former imagining that Cowden had called him

far thay did transcend the boundis of that modestie that did become men of thair calling and functioun, and thairwith did misregaird the Actis of the Generall Assemblye, and specialie of that last keepit at Lynlythq̄w; to the effect thairfoir that thair impunitie for these thair grois overfichtis fould not embolden bothe thame and vtheris to a forder contempt, and vnto suche tyme as We may be fullie certiorate of thair misbehaviour of that Synode, Oure pleasour and will is, that in the meantyme thay be confyned within the boundis of thair parochies quhair thay ar Ministeris, willing you to direct chargeis aganis thame, commanding thame that thay do no way departe furth of the same vnder the pane of rebelloun, &c.; and in caise of thair disobedyence in transcending the boundis prefixt, you fall gif ordour for causing thame presentlie thairpone be denuncit Oure rebellis: And remitting the same to your speciall cair, We bid you fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Windfoir, the faxt of September 1607.

To Oure richt trustie, (*ut supra.*)

PAGE 110. LXVIII.

[Lyndfay, Bishop of Ros̄s, in this letter has evidently a reference to a second marriage, as we may infer from his subsequent letter to the King (page 219), expressing his desire to make some provision for his wife. His first marriage must have taken place soon after his settlement at Leith, as we find that in April and November 1569 presentations under the Privy Seal were granted "to Jeremy Lindefay, son to Mr David Lindefay, Minister of Leith," to a chaplainry in Breclun, and to a prebendary in the Collegiate Church of Lincluden. His son never was in orders, (see note ², page 219.) In September 1589, his daughter Rachael Lyndfay was married to Mr John Spottiswood, Minister and Parson of Calder, and afterwards Arch-

"an Atheist."—(History, vol. vi. p. 675.) In the same work is inserted (*ib.* p. 678) the charge of the Privy Council, in obedience to the above Royal missive, confining Dykes, Seringeour, and Cowden within the bounds of their own parishes.

bishop. The phrase in this letter, "Your gammil Pope," may be explained, as signifying "your old Preist, or your aged Minister:" Lyndsay having accompanied the King to Norway, and performed the marriage ceremony at Upslo, 23d November 1589: the word in Dan. "Gammel," in Norw. "Gamle," signifying *old*, or *aged*, and "Papa," *preist*.]

PAGE 117. LXXII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truttie and weilbelouit Cosines and Countéllouris, We greete you weele: Vnderstanding of the vnquiet and turbulent disposition of Maister Williame Levingstoun, Minister,¹ professing him self rather a fyrebrand of discorde and dissention than, according to his dewytie and function, a goode instrument for the vnitie and peace of the Church; since thairfoir the refrayning of sicke personis frome thair too muche wandering and traelling abroade is necessaric bothe for the quietnes of the Church and for the weele of thair particular flockis, whiche often is neglectit, vpoun thair too greate desyre to be buyed in vnecessaric and vprofitable employentis, Oure pleasour and will is, that by Oure speciall command, in Oure name, you do confyne the said Maister Williame Levingstoun within the boundis of his awne parochie quhair he is preacher, inhibiting him to transcend or come furth of the boundis thair of without Oure speciall licence had and obtenit, and that vnder the pane of rebelloun, &c. And willing you, vpoun the resset hei of, to gif ordour heiranent, We bid you faireweele. Frome Oure Courte at Royftoun, the xvij of October 1607.

To Oure richt truttie, (*ut supra*.)

¹ Livingstone was Minister of Monyabrook in Stirlingshire, in the Diocese of Glasgow: see note 2, *supra*, p. 283; and was translated in 1613 to Lanark.

PAGE 120. LXXIV.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truttie and weilbelouit Cofines and Comfellowis, We greete you wecle: Quhairas ypoun reporte maid vnto Ws of the difordourlie and insolent cariage of Maister Williame Cranftoun, Minister,¹ at the late Synode of Fyffe keptit at Dyfert, We wer pleafit to gif Oure fpeciall command to the Lord of Seone, Oure Commiffionair at the faid Synode, to cauf the faid Maister Williame Cranftoun be denouneceit rebell and putt to Oure horne, and als apprehendit and committit in warde; and now fince being putt in hoip that the faid Mr Williame being forie and penitent for his former ouerfichtis, will conforme him felf in all dewytie to that whiche is moft conuenient for the peace of that Churche, and for the furtherance of Oure feruice thair, We ar thairfoir moued to relent from the geving forder direktion anent his committing, and ar to will you to command the faid Maister Williame to remane within the boundis of his owne parochie, and no way to tranfcend the fame vntill fuche tyme as Oure forder pleafour and will be knowne; as alfo, that you will gif ordour for his relaxing and reffaving to Oure peace, that fo it may clearlie kyithe that We ar willing to fhew mercy to thame that will ackowelege thair ouerfichtis, and will promeis to amend, as on the other parte We will mak thofe turbulent and vnquiet fpirittis, bothe in Churche and State thair, feill the weight of Oure indignation and wraith: And fo We bid you faireweele. Frome Oure Courte at Whytchall, the xiiij of Nouember 1607.

To Oure richt truttie, (&c. *ut supra.*)

† Cranstoun was Minister of Kings Kettle, or Lathrisk, in Fife.

PAGE 122. LXXV.†

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xxiii Decembris 1607.

Sederunt—

CHANCELLAIR.
 SANCTANDROIS.
 HALIRUDHOUS.
 M^R OF LOTHIAN.

QUHITTINGHAME.
 JUSTICE CLERK.
 LOGY.
 BRUNT ILAND.

COLLECTOR.
 M^R LUES CRAIG.
 FOSTERSAIT.
 SIR ALEX^R. DRUMMOND.
 SIR PETIR YOUNG.

*Continuatioun of the Generall Assembly.*¹

FORSAMEKLE as the Generall Affembley of the Kirk haueing, vpon mony necessair and weghte confiderationis, ressanit findrie continuatiounis be the speciall command and directioun of the Kingis Maieftie, who of his princelie cair and faderlie affectioun to the peace and weill of the Kirk, hes left no goode meanis vnassayed to extinguisht the fyre of diuisioun standing amang the Brethrenne, and to bring thame to ane vni-formitie of myndis and affectiounis, wherthrow thair meitingis might be in peace, love, and Christiane cheritie. and thay thame selffis maid the

¹ The meeting of the General Assembly appointed to be held at Holyroodhouse on the last Tuesday of July 1607, was changed to November, at Dundee. It was further postponed to the last Tuesday of April following, and again postponed till the last Tuesday of July 1608, as directed by the above Act of Parliament. Proclamations to this effect, dated 24th May, 18th October, and 24th December 1607, had accordingly been issued. According to a Proclamation on the 28th of June, the Privy Council changed the place from Dundee to Linlithgow, his Majesty "being certified, to Oure just greif, that Oure Burgh of Dundee is visited be God with the plaige of pestilence; so as it wer a dangerous thing, for feir of forder infectioun, that thair sould be any convening or greit meiting thairin." These Proclamations are recorded in the Acts of Privy Council, and are printed in the Book of the Universall Kirk, vol. iii., p. 1040—1044; and also in Calderwood's History, vol. vi., pp. 681, 682, 686. The Historian alleges, that the true cause of the delay was, that such a meeting "must needs be tumultuous and disorderlie," in consequence of the unexpected opposition to Presbyteries accepting their Constant Moderators.

mair able and strong to oppose thame selfis aganis the aduerfaris of the treuthe and contrarie professouris, whose increfit number and practifeis hes procedit of no thing so muche as by the dissentioun amangs the Ministeris: And the last prorogatioun and continuatioun hauing procedit vpon a most wyfe and godlie courfe and resolutionn intendit by his Maieftie be appointing of the Commissionaris nominat be the Generall Assembly, with his Maieftieis consent, to haif visite the hail Presbytryis and particulaire Congregationis in this Kingdome, the saidis Visitationis, in respect of the lang and great storme and vnseasonable tyme of yeare, hes ressaied no effect nor executioun: And the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill considdering how that it is most necessair and expedient that this Visitation fall yitt preceid the said Assembly: and thair being great hoipsis that his Maieftie fall honour this his Native countrey with his Royall presence this yeare,¹ and that in his awne person he fall assist the meiting and Assembly of the Brethren, and, be his Royall authoritie, grave wisdom, and singlar dexteritie, sattle the present jarris and differencis in the Kirk, and establishe the same in a perfyte love, vnitie, and harmonic, and thairwithall be his Royall presence greatlie honour and grace the said Assembly: Thairfore the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill hes thought meit yitt to prorogat and continew the said Assembly vnto the last Twisday of Julij nixtocome, vpon quihilk day, God willing, it fall begin and hald at the Burgh of Dundie, and ordanis publicatioun to be maid heirof at the Mercat Croce of Edinburgh, and otheris placeis neidfull, wherthrow naue pretend ignorance of the same, commanding and chargeing straitlie all his Maieftieis subiectis of the Ministerie, that naue of thame presume nor tak vpon hand to hald and keepe ane Generall Assembly at ony tyme or place afoir the said last Twisday of Julij, vnder all heiest paine and charge that thair may committ agane his Maieftie in that behalf.

¹ It is well known that his Majesty's purpose of honouring his native country with a visit was delayed until the year 1617.

PAGE 124. LXXVI.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you wele: We haif sene those particulaire pointis of that Sermone preached by Mr Johnne Murray, quhair upoun he may be verie wele challengeit and accufit as one most vndewtiful to Ws and that Estate, in objecting perjurie and intendit perfequitioun of the Church, and als in preicheing most fallie and erroneousslie aganis the worthie Rites and Ceremoneyis of the Church, being the onlie trow life of the present visible and weil governed Church on Earthe: And therefoir yf this his bolde and feditious offence could not be exemplarlie punished, it wald no doubt enbolden otheris of that same disposition to proceede to forder villanyes and contemptis: And as it is expedient, in suche lyke [caises], evir with rigour to repres the begynningis, We ar to will you so to proceede heirin as We may find you voyde of all cairlesnes, fearfulness, or partiall fauour in a mater of suche moment. And so We bid you fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Newmarkett, the fevint of Marche 1608.

[To Oure richt trustie, &c., *ut supra*.]

PAGE 126. LXXVII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you weele: By your letter of the tent of this instant¹ you do certifie your proceedingis aganis Mr Johnne Murray, Minister, quhairin We expecting to haif hard of his punishment inflicted by you, did find no thing in it bot ane idill relation of his equivocating prattling, and do now persave that you ar loathe to falsifie Oure prophesie of you uttered

¹ This letter from the Council, on the 10th of March, is printed *supra*, p. 124.

by Ws in that letter fend vnto you concerning that precipitat Act past aganis Ws in fauouris of Oure Advocat anent the Siluer Myne, wherin howfoevir Oure privat interes, notour to euerie one of you, did carye some reafoun that We fould haif bene acquainted befoir you had procedit,¹ yitt in that thair wes no ftop nor delaye, bot in the punifheing of ony Puriteyne preachour, howfoeuer manifist his offence be, We did foirtell (that whiche We now finde trew by experience) that Oure pleafour in that mater muft be at leaft fome half dufane feveral tymes foecht, and the fame fignifeit to you, befoire We can haif ony of Oure direktionis in thefe materis executed, wherin, how far in dewytie and difcharge of your place you come thort of Oure counfell heir, I leaue it to your awne confideratioun; and thairfoir, in Oure direktionis heirefter, you muft ather do quhat is commandit, or then excufe your felffis upoun your infufficiencie to difcharge your placeis; And in this particular, you ar to returne to Ws with fpeede fome aduertifment of the punifheing of the faid Mr Johne Murray, or ellis We will tak some fpeedie ordour for the punifheing of him for his commiffioun, and you for your omiffioun: And willing you to be moir cairfull heirefter in executing of Oure direktionis, as you wald efchew Oure juft wraith and indignatioun, We bid you faireweele. Frome Oure Courte at Whytehall, the 20th of Marche 1608.

To Oure richt truffie, (&c., *ut supra.*)

PAGE 140. LXXXII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truffie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you weele: As you haif bene heirtfoir certifeit by Oure mony

¹ This refers to an Act in favour of Sir Thomas Hamilton, Lord Advocate, 19th of January 1608, but which, in consequence of the King's express warrant, was deleted on the 10th of March following, according to an attestation on the margin of the Register by the Clerk of Council.

feuerall letters of Oure iust difcontentment confavit at that impertinent Sermone preached by Mr Johnne Murray at a Provinciall meeting at Edinburgh,¹ fo We marvell muche how in his tryale for that mater you fould fo tenderlie haue flipped over the tryale and examinatioun of thefe perfonis vnto whome he did gif copyis of that Sermone, that in regard the publiffing and imprenting thair of is altogidder denyit by him felf, one of thefe two vnto whome in his depositioun he dois affirme he did delyver copyis of the faid Sermone muft needis know how it wes publiffed, and by whome it wes imprented; and thairfoir Oure pleafour and will is, That vpon reffait heirof immediatlie you call befoir you Mr David Home of Goddifcroft² and Mr Patrik Henderfon,³ who wer the perfonis that did reflave the copyis of the faid Sermone frome the faid Mr Johnne, and trye of thame quhat thay did with the copyis of the faid Sermone, or to whome thay did delyver the fame; and you fall keepe and deteyne thame in prifone vtill fuch tyme as thay do difcouer particularie the difperfing of the fame, and how it come to the prefs. quhairin We will you to be verie cairfull and diligent; and fo We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Whytehall, the laft of Aprile 1608.

To Oure truftie, (&c., *ut supra.*)

PAGE 140. LXXXII.††

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, quarto die mensis Maij 1608.

Charge aganist Mr Patrik Hendirsoun.

FORSAMEKLE as the Lordis of Secrite Counfaile ar informit that Mr Johnne Murray, Minifter at Leith, delynerit copyis of that imperti-

¹ See former note, p. 124, respecting Murray's Sermon, which was preached at a meeting of Synod about twelve months before, and was printed without his knowledge at London.

² No notice regarding Hume of Godscroft occurs in the proceedings of Privy Council.

³ Henderson was Master of "the Sang School," or Teacher of Sacred Music, and Reader in Edinburgh.—(Calderwood's History, vol. vii., pp. 257, 348.)

nent Sermone preached by him at a Provinciall Meeting in Edinburgh to Mr David Home in Goddiscroft and Mr Patrik Hendirfoun; and seeing the publifcheing and imprenting of that Sermone is altogidder denyit be the said Mr Johnne, it is verie certaine and evident that the saids Mr David Home and Mr Patrik Hendirfoun muft needs know how it wes publifched, and by quhome it wes imprented; Thairfore the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile Ordanis letters to be direct, chargeing the saids Mr David Home and Mr Patrik Hendirfoun to compeir personallie befor the saids Lordis vpon the twelst day of Majj instant, to declair vnto the saids Lordis quhat thay did with the copyis of the said Sermone, to quhome thay did deliner the same, be quhat meanis it wes disperfit, and how it come to the pres, and to vndirly sic ordour as falbe tane thairnent, vndir the pane of rebelloun and putting of thame to the horne, with certificatioun to thame, and thay failzie, letters falbe direct simpliciter to put thame thairto.

Apud Edinburgh, xvij die mensis Majj 1608.

Anent our Souerane Lordis letters direct, makand mentioun, Forfamekle [*&c. ut supra*: Quhilkis letters, &c.] being callit, and the said Mr Patrik Hendirfoun compeirand personallie, quha confessit, deponit and declairit, that about half ane yeir efter the preiching of the Sermone foirsaid, Mr Johnne Murray gaif to the deponer a copie of that Sermone to write over, and that he write thrie copyis thairof, and delyuerit thame all to the said Mr Johnne, and retenit the principall copie, quhilk the said Mr Johnne gaif him to him self; and that he write na ma copyis bot these thrie, quhilk he delyuerit to the said Mr Johnne, and that he never schew the copie quhilk he retenit bot to Mr Adam Colt, with quhom the said deponair stayit quhill the said Mr Adam red the same, and than immediatlie tuk it fra him agane; and deponit upon his grite aith, That he knawis no thing of the imprenting thairof, nor be quhais directioun it wes imprentit; and deponis that he nevir saw ony of the printit copyis bot ane in the said Mr Johnne Murrays handis, quhilk wes said to be that copy quhilk wes send down from his Maiestie. With the quhilk Declaratioun, maid be the said Mr Patrik in maner foirsaid, the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile being weil advist, the Lordis of

Secrite Counfaile ordanis the said Mr Patrik to produce before the saidis Lordis, vpoun the nixt Counfaile day, the copie foirfaid quhilk he reffavit fra the said Mr Johnne, to be sene and confidderit be the saidis Lordis, as the said Mr Patrik will anfuer vpoun his obedyence.¹

PAGE 140. LXXXIII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counsellouris, We greete you weele: We vndirstaud that in the late Visitation of the Kirkis within the boundis of Merse and T'eviotdaill, by the Reuerend fader in God the Bischop of Orknay, Mr David Calderwoode, Mr Johnne Boyll, and George Johnnestoun, Ministeris within the Presbyterie of Jedburgh,² without regard of that dewitie whiche become thame to beir to thair superiouris, did in most insolent maner refuse to be tryed by him who wes Commissioner speciallie appointed for the said Visitation, and wald in no caise submitt thame felfis according to the warand of the Generall Assembly, and of Oure command interposit thairto, gevand thairby a most evill example for enery one to contemne and misregaird all forme of reule and discipline, whiche is ane offence fo heynous as, yf thay fould not be exemplarlie punisshed, thair needis no forder dewytie nor obedyence to be ony way expectit frome ony of that forte: And thairfoir Oure pleasour and will is, That you call those Ministeris befor you, and ather caus thame, with acknowlegeing of

¹ No further notice of this matter is recorded in the Acts of Privy Council.

² Calderwood, as might be expected, makes special mention of this Visitation of the Presbytery of Jedburgh, and inserts in his History the letter from James Bishop of Orkney, 9th April, intimating his purpose to come as the Visitor, with the Edict charging the Members to compare on the 2d of May. These are followed by the Declinature on the part of Johnstone, Boyle, and Calderwood, and the Reasons for which the Brethren "declined the judgement of Mr James Law as pretended Visitor."—(Vol. vi., pp. 706—716.)—Calderwood was Minister of Crailing, Johnstone of Ancrum, and Boyle, (who was blind), assistant Minister of Jedburgh.

thair former ouerfight, in all dewitie to submitt thame felffis to the said Bifchop, as it did become thame to haif done, or then you fall not fail, vpon thair compeirance, immediatlie to committ thame in prifone within Oure Caffell of Blaknes, thair to remayne whill We certifie you of Oure forder pleafour; and in caife thay fould not compeir befor you, Oure will is That you then caus denunce thame Oure rebellis, and profequte Oure hole ordinarie courfe of Juftice aganis thame as manifelt contemnaris and difobeyaris of Oure lawis: And fo We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Grenewiche, the laft of Maij 1608.

To Oure richt truffie, (*ut supra.*)

PAGE 140. LXXXIII.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, 7^o die mensis Junij 1608.

Charge aganist Mr David Calderwoode and utheris.

FORSAMERLE as it is vndirftand to the Lordis of Secrite Counfale that (in the lait Vifitatioun of the Kirkis within the boundis of Merfs and Teviotdaill, by the Reverend Father in God James Bifchop of Orknay), Mr David Calderwood, Mr Johnne Boyll, and George Johnftoun, Ministeris within the Presbyterie of Jedburgh, without regard to that dewtye quhilk become thame to beir to thair superioris, did in moft infolent maner refufe to be tryit by him who wes Commiffioner fpeciallie appointed for the faid Vifitatioun, and wald in no caifs submitt thame felffis, according to the warrand of the Generall Affemble, and of his Heynes command interponit thairto, gevand thairby a moft evill example for every one to contempne and mifregaird all forme of reule and difcipline, whiche is ane offence fo heynous, as gif that [thay] be not exemplarlie punift, thair neidis no forder dewtye nor obedience to be ony way expected frome ony of that forte heirefter: Thairfore the faidis Lordis ordanis letters to be direct charging the faidis perfonis to

compeir personalie before the saidis Lordis, vpon the _____ day of _____, to anfuere to the premisses, and to vudirly tryall and punishment for the same as appertenis, vudir the pane of rebellium, &c., with certification, &c.¹

PAGE 140. LXXXIII.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counfellowis, We greete you weele: The lait insolent misbehaviour of the Presbytereis of Jedburgh and Chirnefyde in refusing to conforme thame selffis to the ordinance of the Generall Assambley laittie kept at Lynlythgw, as it can not bot be muche offensiue vnto Vs, so yf it sould pas with impunity, it mycht enbolden utheris to that same contempt, and induce a confusioun in the Estate of that Church, and thairfor We haif maid speciall choise of Sir Patrik Chirnefyde of Eist Nisbitt knycht, for the Presbyterie of Chirnefyde, and Sir Jedeone Murray, for the Presbyterie of Jedburgh, of whose fordwart willingnes and affection to Oure service We haif heirtfoir had many fenerall proofis, quhome We haue willed to repair to those Presbyteryis at some tyme of thair sitting, and to mak in Oure name, as Oure Commisionaris vnto thame, ane propolitioun for reffauing of the Constant Moderatour appointed to cache of thame by that Lynlythgw Assambley, and to caus the same then presentlie be putt to voiceis among the Brethrenne of cache Presbyterie; and quhair thair falbe a generall refuse by boithe or ony one of those Presbyteryis, ather by the vniuerfall consentis of the whole or of the most

¹ On the 7th of July, the above charge is repeated in the Acts of Privy Council; and Calderwood and Boyle having personally appeared for themselves and on behalf of Johnstone, they declared, "that they did nothing upon presumption or contempt, bot simple gair in a Declinatour; and that now they wer content that thair Declinatour, and all actis and instrumentis tane be thame thairupon, sould be cancellit, and that the said Bishop might be free to urge thame with tryall, according to the Act and commission of the Generall Assembly."

parte of the Ministeris, We haue willed that Oure saidis Commiffionaris fould then caus intimat by speeciall letters a difcharge to thame of that Presbyterie of all forder proceeding, and a prohibitioun to thame to vse ony forder power or auctoritie with exeming of all Oure subiectis within their boundis frome ony way aeknowledgeing of thame or thair iurisdiction, as being vnworthie schifinatik memberis of a Churche whiche fould fo withstand and contradiēt the Conclufionis of thair Generall meeting: And wheras the acceptatioun of the Constant Moderatour fall pas by the greateft number of voices, We haif then willed the Commiffioner in whose Presbyterie it fall fo happin, to infist to haif it enacted and recordit in thair Presbyterie bookis: And yitt, being loath to leave thofe who haue spent thair vennome, albeit to no greate effect, vnpunifhed, We haif thairuponn willed Oure saidis Commiffionaris to denunce and regiftrat all fuche of eache of thair Presbyteryis who, the tyme that the said mater wes moved, by thair voiceis did oppofe thame selfis to the paffing thair of: And thairfoir you ar to caus raife fuche chargeis and warrantis for both the Presbyteryis for difchargeing of thame, in cais thay fould refufe the accepting of a Constant Moderatour, and for denuncceing of thame who kythis oppofitis in [if] the Aētis do pas, and fend fuche of thame as fall concerne the Presbyterie of Chirnefyde to Sir Patrik Chirnefyde, and thofe that ar for Jedburgh to Sir Gedeone Murray, Oure saidis feuerall Commiffionaris, whome We haif [willed], by Oure other letters to thame bothe, to haif eache one of thame a speeciall cair of the difcharge of his Commiffioun at this tyme, that fo, vpoun the example of this thair punifhment, other Presbyteryis may be affrayed frome committing the lyke infolence heir-etter: And fo We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Manour of Grenewiche, the laft of Maij 1608.¹

To Oure richt truſtie, (*ut supra.*)

¹ On the 7th of June 1608 the Privy Council issued Charges against the Presbyteries of Chirnefyde and Jedburgh, for refusing to accept John Clappertoun and Mr John Abirnethy, as Constant Moderator. On the 14th of August following is inserted the Report of Sir Gedeone Murray of his visitation for the admission of Abernethy as Moderator of the Presbytery of Jedburgh.

PAGE 156. XCII.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
HADDINGTON.

RIGHT TRAIST FREINDIS,

Efter oure hairtlie commendationis, The Clerk of Register haveing with grite panes and travellis reduceit the hail Ancient Lawis of this Kingdome¹ in anc volume, and haveing putt the same to the press to be prented for the benefeit of His Maiesteis subiectis, and for the honnour, credite, and estimatioun of the countrey, it is verie necessar, for the better perfectioun of this Werk, that some speciall persone of knowlege and experience be appointed to attend and await thairupoun, and to examine, espy, and correct suche erroris and faultis thairin as usuallie occurris in everie page that first comes from the presse, and finding none so meete for this purpos as Mr James Carmichaell, Minister at Hadingtone, we haif delt and travellit with him to vndirtak this charge, which he is loathe to vndirtak without your approbatioun and allowance: And feeing this is a common Werk importing the honnour, benefeit, and reputatioun of this hail Kingdome, we now intreate and requiest you richt effectuaullie to dispens with the said Mr James absence fra his charge and functioun the space of two monethis or thairby, within whilk space we hoip that this werk salbe broght to some reasounable perfectioun. We doubt not bot the regaird whiche all of you do carye to this so necessair and profitable a werk will move you to forder and assist the same by the said Mr James attendance thairupoun, wherby, as you sal testifie your gude dispositioun to the furtherance and advancement of euerie thing whiche may inporte the honnour and credite of this our native Kingdome, so you will do vnto us very acceptable

¹ The work referred to, was compiled by Sir John Skene of Curriehill, Clerk Register, and published under the well known title of "Regiam Majestatem: Scotie Veteres Leges, etc." Edinburgi, 1609, folio. The Collection was also published, at the same time, in a separate volume, "faithfully collected and translated out of Latin into Scottish language."

pleafour: And fua recommending you unto Godis divyne proteétioun,
we reft your affured goode freindis,

S. T. HAMILTON.	A. CANCELLE.
JO. PRESTON.	TORPHICHEN.
ROSS.	HALIRUDHOUS.
AN. YLLIS.	BUGCLEUCH.
	QUHITTINGHAME.

Edinburgh, 13 October 1608.

To our richt traitt freindis, the Ministeris
of the Presbyterie of Hadingtoun, &c.

PAGE 176. CIV.†

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xxiij die mensis Novembris 1608.

Proclamation of the Convention to the 26 of Januar.

WHEREAS vpon report maid unto Ws of the proceedingis of that
laft Generall Affemblic of the Kirk of that Oure Kingdome keipit at
Lynlithgow, and of the goode vnitie and concord thairat, and of the
zeale and affectionn kyithed at that tyme by many of Oure subiectis of
findrie qualiteis and estaitis, both for advancing of the treuth professit,
and repressing the ineres and growth of contrarie professouris. We wer
moued with no small caus of joy and contentment, and acknowledgeing
Oure fellic in Oure dewtie to Oure God to be bound as a Nuriffader to
his Kirk heir on Earth, to proteét, mantene, and advance all thair good
and lauchfull proceedingis; and for that caus We haucing thoelt meit
that suche thingis as wer treated of in the said Affemblic mycht be consultit
vpon and concludeit by the Estaitis of that Oure Kingdome, to be
convened the sext day of December nixt: Bot We haucing now some
forder mater to move at that meiting, for repressing in all tyme heirefter
of any growthe of Papistis and contrary professouris, whiche can no way

be prepared to be proponed at the foirfaid appointed day, We haif thair-upoun thought meitest to continew that meiting of Oure Estaitis formerlie appointed the faid sext of December to the xxvj of Januar thairefter, at quliche tyme, without forder delay, We hoip to haif so good conclusionis laide down by Oure Estaitis thair as boith the counoun enemye falbe intlie afeard, and the trew professour muche encouraged: And thairfore Oure pleafour and will [is] that publicatioun be maid heirof at the mercat croce of Edinburgh, and all utheris placeis neidfull, willing all siche as ar defyred to the foirfaid Conventioun not to fail to keip precillie the faid xxvj of Januar, that so by thair concurrence that good work, begun and brotched in the Generall Affemblie, may be finilhed and crowned in the Conventioun of Oure Estaitis, for joy and contentment to the good, and for discouraginge of all the bad and wicked forte, who ar evill affected in Religioun; and that letters of publicatioun be heirupoun direct. Gevin at Oure Court of Newmarket, the xxv of November 1608.

PAGE 180. CVL†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE CONVENTION OF ESTATES
AT EDINBURGH.

[JAMES R.]

Right trusty and weilbeloued Confeingis and Counfallouris, and wtheris Our good, louing, and obedient subiectis of the Estaitis of that Oure Kingdome, presentlie convenit, We greit you weil: Whereas We haif thought meit, for authorizeing of certane Conclusionis of the lait kept Generall Affemblie, maid for repressing of this great increas and growth of contrary professouris, being dangerous subiectis in the Estait, and for utheris caussis to be impairted to you in this Meiting, to appoynt this Generall Conventioun of Oure Estaitis: We haif thairupoun maid speciall choice of Oure right trusty and weilbeloued Confeingis and Counfallouris, The Erle of Dunfermling, Chancellor, and the Erle of Dumbar, Thesaurer of that Oure Kingdome, to be Oure Commisionaris thereat, vnto whome We haif committed the trust of the proposing of all materis to be moved therein: And als We haif remitted

vnto thair caire and diligence to sie everie thing profequited and concludet that may ferve for advancement of the trew Religioun professed, for the setting forward of Oure service, and for the Commonweill and benefite of that hole Kingdome; And noway doubting of your speciall regard bothe of message and messengeris, with all dew respect that appertenis, or is requiseit: We bid you fairweill. Frome Oure Courte of Whitehall, the nyut of Januarie 1609.

To Oure right trustie and weilbeloued Counseingers and Counsellouris, and to Oure trustie and weilbeloued, The Nobillitie, Clergie, and Commons of that Oure Kingdome of Scotland now presently conveyned.

PAGE 180. CVL.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE CONVENTION OF ESTATES.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counsellouris, and utheris of Our trustie, dewtifull, and obedyent Subiectis of the Esteatis of that Oure Kingdome presentlie convenit, We greete you weelle: As We holde Oure self in dewytie to Oure God, being the Nuriffader of his Church heir on Earth within Oure dominionis, bound to advance the trew ancient Apostolique faithe presentlie professit among ws, and to suppres all contrarie professouris; So vpoun knowlege of that conformitie of myndis, and the affectionis of so grite a number of Oure goode subiectis of all rankis and qualityis, in that lait kept Generall Assëmbley at Lynlythq̄w, and that the fairis of divisioun sowne heirtofor by Satan him self among the Clergye wer now plucked out by the roote, for the better resisting the commoun enemy, We could not bot in Oure haitis muche reioyce thairat; and to testifie Oure goode approbatioun of the proceeding of that Assëmbley convenit be Oure Warrant. We did appoint this present Conventioun of you of Oure Esteatis of that Kingdome, that those thingis then moved at that meeting may by you

be now ratified, and so prepare agane the next Parliament, to be past a Statute, whiche We haif thought meete to sett down in those few termes: As first, Becaus the vessell will ordinarlie, ather a lang tyme or for ever, reteyne the taist of the liqueur first putt therinto; and since no thing is now necessarye to prevent the growth and increse of this defection from the faith, then the adverting to the educatioun and vbring of the youthis, the sending of whome beyonde sea, in placeis of contrary professioun, without being first weele groundit in Religioun, and accompanied with Pedagogis weele affectit to the same, makis thame often to returne bak so possest with superstitious and hereticall errouris, as thay may iustlie be suspectit to the Eltair for dangerous subiectis in the same, It is thairfoir meete to be concludit by Act of this present Conventioun, That ony suche Noblemen and utheris as directis a Pedagoig with thair Sones oute of the countrey, that thair Pedagoig be knowne godlie and of goode Religioun, lerned and instructit in the same, and approved in his Religioun by testimoniall of the Bischop of the Diocie quhair the said Pedagoig hes for maist part kaitlie befoir maid his residence, and that thair remaneing furth of the countrey be in the placeis quhair Religioun is presentlie professit, or at the leist quhair thair is no restraint of the same by the crueltie of Inquisition; that during the tyme of thair absence thay fall not hant ony idolatrous exercise of Religioun; and suche as hes not the moyen to interteny with thair Sonis a Pedagoig, that thay send thame to suche partis as Religioun is professit in: And in cais thair Sones, efter thair departour oute of the countrey, hant the exercises of contrarie Religioun, that thay find caution not to intertenye thame; and incas ony that passis oute of the countrey imbrace ony uther Religioun nor that whiche is presentlie professit within the Realme, that thay fall not be able to bronke honnouris nor officeis within the Realme: And to the effect it may be the better knowen how euery one is disposit and affectit in Religioun, it is expedient that at the Service of the breveis of ony being maior and of perfyte yearis, the partie suitair of the same fall, befoir ony proces had be him thairin, produce a certificate vnder the hand of the Archiebischop or Bischop of the Diocey quhair he duellis of his conformitie to the Religioun presentlie professit, quhair of thair falbe speciall mentioun

maid in the Service, and nather fall the fame be reflaued in Oure Chancellarie, nor ony proces at his instance granted thairvpoun befor ony Judge in that Kingdome, withoute the fame service contene the production of the said certifiat; and for fuche as for not conformeing thame selffis to the Religioun professit ather ar alreddy or heirefter falbe Excommunicat, it falbe declairit, that nouthere be thame selffis nor vtheris in thair names to thair behoove, fall posses ony laudis, rentis, or revenewis belonging to those personis excommunicat; that so this grite ineres and growth of Papistis may be stayed, the trew professouris conforted, and that Religioun may be advanced and sett fordwart: And no way doubting of your zeale, affeccioun, and love heirunto, according to your formair proofis gevin of the fame, We bid you fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Roistoun, xxiiij of Januair 1609.

To Oure richt trustie, (*ut supra.*)¹

PAGE 191. CXI†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counsellouris, We greete yow weele: Whereas Mr Johne Murray, lait Minister of Leyth, having most grevoullie offendit Us, and for that caus having bene committed in wairde within Oure Castell of Edinburgh, hes now bene a goode space prifouner in the fame, and however in justice We micht haif procedit aganis him with greate rigour, yitt vpoun Oure love to his functioun and calling, and in hoip that his bypast chastisement fall procure him to be moir circumspect in his cariage heirefter, We ar

¹ The Convention of Estates was held at Edinburgh, on the 27th of January 1609. All the Prelates excepting the Bishop of Murray were present. His Majesty's letter, as above, was read, "to the unspeakable joy and conforte of the said Estates." The Acts enjoyned by the King were accordingly passed, and are printed in the Acta Parl. Scot., vol. iv., pp. 105—107.

pleasit to mitigait the extremitie of law; and thairfoir Oure will and expres command is, That yow fall freethe him furth of Oure Castell of Edinburgh, quhair he presentlie remaynis, charging him within twentie dayis nixtefter his releif furth thairof, that he repair to the toun of New Abbay, within the cuntrey of Nithisdail, and that he remayne thair, and of [within] fyve myllis of the said towne, and noway transeend the boundis of his confyneing without Oure speciall licence and warrand had and obtenit thairto; We having gevin unto him libertie also to teache and preache at the said Kirk of New Abbay: It is alwayis to be straitlie injoynd to the said Mr Johnne, that from the tyme of his coneing furth of warde whill his entrie within the boundis of his confyneing, that he do not repair to the toun of Leyth, nather preache nor mak fermone in ony place whatfoever, except within the precinct of his abovewritten confyneing, and that he lykewayes do not refort to ony Presbytrye, Provinciall or Generall Assambley, without his Maiesties speciall licence had thairto. And willing you to be cairfull to see this Oure directioun spedilie executed and obeyit, We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Whytehall, the fyft of Marche 1609.

To Oure richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, The Erl of Dunfermlyne, Oure Chancellor, and remanent Lordis and utheris of Oure Preuey Counfaill of that Oure Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 191. CXI.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you weele: Whereas We vnderstand that mony Ministeris who wer wardit or confyned, ather by immediat command from Oure self, or vpoun your warrant, by Oure speciall directioun sent vnto you, ar now

at libertie, and fred by you without your acquainting Ws thairwith, We do muche mervell thairof, specialie in regard that how notour fouir thair offence be, yitt hail you nevir of your felffis at any tyme committed ony of those delinquent Ministeris, yea scairse efter reflect of aue or two of Oure severall directiounis sent you for that effect: Alwayes to eschew the oversight and error heirefter, It is Oure pleasour and will and expres command that no persone, ather Minister or other whatfoevir, who falbe confynned or wardit by Oure directioun heirefter, or concerning whose retentionn We fall certifie you of Oure pleasour, be in ony forte enlarged or fred of thair warde, or oute of the boundis of thair confynceing, without first We be certifyed thairof, and that you ressaue Oure speciall directioun and warrand auent the same: And hoiping you wilbe moir cairfull of your dewitie heirefter in this poynt, as you wald eschew Oure just reproofe, We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Whytehall, the 5 of Marche 1609.

To Oure richt trustie. (*ut supra.*)

PAGE 192. CXII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO SIR THOMAS HAMILTON OF BINNY.
LORD ADVOCATE.

JAMES R.

Trufty and weilbelouit Counsellour, We greit you weil: As none of Oure Counsell there can be ignorant bot the worke of the Establisshing Bithoppis and restoreing of there Estaite hes bene Oure owen proper motioun, not subgested or procured by importunitye or suiteing of otheris, So We think that you do know as muche thereof as another, since your plaice as Oure Advocatt, and Oure many directiounis gevin at indrie tymes for thir materis, might hail sufficientlye persuaदैit you that this turne of the Bithoppis restitutionn is a thing wherein We hold Oure felffis particularlye interestit, the crosseris whereof wilbe reputed by Ws evill affected to Oure service: And therefore, since this mater of

the Comiffariatis is now in hand, and that yee your felf do remember vpoun what occafion the word Jurifdictioun was omitted in the Act of Parliament maid in favouris of Bifhoppis, onlye for the difficulteis pretendit by the manteynaris of Pretbiteryis: Lett not the unwillingnes of any to this Oure intentioun, or the obiectioun of difficulteis be a hinderance to this worke; bot fince it becometh you as Oure Aduocatt to pleade for the forderance of any thing that is Oure pleafour and determinatt will, fo We wifh to fie in this bufynes a particular pruiue thereof, as you wald deferue Oure fpeciall thankes and efchew Oure repruiue, And fo biddis you fairweill. Frome Oure Courte at Whitehall, the xxiiijth of Marche 1609.

To Oure truftye and weilbelouit Counfellour,
 Sir Thomas Hamiltoun of Binnye knight,
 Oure Aduocatt of that Oure Kingdome
 of Scotland.

PAGE 192. CXII.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xxvij Marcij, Anno etc. 1609.

Commiſſioun to the Archiebifhop of Glasgow.

FORSAMEKLE as the bypaft barbaritie and incivilitie in that parte of the Middle Shyris, which formarie wer the Bordouris of this Kingdome, (the inhabitantis in moft pairt thair of being voyd of all trew feir of God and Religion,) wes the caus that the Kirkis of the fame for laik of reparatioun went almoift all to decay and rwyne, and feeing now be the happie Vnioun of the two Kingdomes in his Maieftis perfone, that whiche formarie wes the Marche is now become the Middle of his Maieftis dominionis, and his Heynes being loath that thefe markis of the bypaft barbaritie fould continew, and being defyrous that ordour fould be tane for repairing of the Kirkis in thefe boundis, and planting

of thame with Ministeris, his Maieftie, vpon affured knowlege of the good affectionn of the reverend Father in God, and his trustie counfellour, the Archibifchop of Glasgou, in the aduancement of Godis glorie, the most part of the saidis boundis being within his Diocie, at the leift of his Province, hes thoct meit that he be burdynnit with this employment; Thairfoir the Lordis of Secreit Counfale, according to his Maieftieis fpeciall direftioun, hes gevin and grantit, and be thir prefentis gevis and grantis full pouer and commiffion, expres bidding and charge, to Johnne Archibifchop of Glasgou, to repair to the boundis quhilkis formarlie wer the Bordouris of this Kingdome, and to tak ordour with the repairing of the Kirkis of the saidis boundis, for planting of the fame with Ministeris, and for uniting of Kirkis togidder, quhair the fame may be the maift commodioufflic done with ease to both parrochynairis: And for bettir help of the Ministeris prouiffioun and maintenance, with power to him at his repair to the saidis boundis to call before him the parrochynairis of eache paroche, with thair Pastour, gif thay ony haue, and with thair consent to conclude and refolue vpon ony fuche courfe as falbe fitteft and most expedient, boith for the fpedy repairing and building of the saidis Kirkis and prouiffioun of Ministeris, and to do, vfe, and exercee, quhatueir vther thing lauchfull may furder aduance and fet fordwart this bufynes: And becaus for the help and reparatioun of the saidis Kirkis, thair wilbe neceffitie of a grite deale of tymmer and treis, quhairof thair is yit fume small remaynis within the saidis boundis, and it being a scandall and reproch to the countrey that materiallis fould want to futehe a good woork as the reparatioun of Kirkis, feing nothing is intendit to be tane from the owner of the woodis without a fuffieient and reasonable price, with power thairfore to the said Archibifchop to deale with the awnairis of the saidis woodis, and to tak fuche courfe with thame as thair woodis may be reteyned in the countrey, at the leift fo muche thairof referued to the vfe foirfaid as falbe required, vpon reasonable and dew priceis to be gevin for the fame, and fiabie halding, and for to hald all and quhatfumeuir thingis the said Archibifchop fall lauchfullie do heirin, Chargeing all and findrie oure Soueraine Lordis leigeis to reverence, acknawlege, and obey the said Archibifchop in all thingis tending to

the executioun of this commiffioun, as thay will anfuer vpoun thair obedience at thair heicheft perrill.

PAGE 204. CXIX.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and richt weilbelouit Cofines and Counsellouris, We greete you weil: Wheras the richt reuerend Fader in God, Oure trustie and richt weilbelouit Counsellour, the Archiebifchop of Glasgou, hes of lait done vnto Ws most notable and worthie seruice, not onlie in apprehending the Preift Paterfoun, and difcouering the plaice of Mr Johnne Hammiltonis refett, whiche gaif the ocafionn of his taking, bot also in going to the toun of Newabbay, and thair breking vp the chalmer of Mr Gilbert Browne, sometyme Abbot thairof, and having found a grite number of Popifhe bookis, coapis, chaliceis, piécturis, imageis, and fuche uther Popifhe trafhe, he most worthelie and denti-fullie, as become bothe a Prelatt and Counsellour, on a mercatt day, at a grite confluence of people in the hie freit of Oure burgh of Drum-freis, did burne all these coapis, vestimentis, and chaliceis, having deli-uered to [John] Maxwell of Kirkconnell all these bookis, vpoun fpeciall promeis that he fould mak thame furthemmand; In confideratioun of whiche seruice, whareof We muft tak fpeciall notice for the encourage- ing bothe him and vtheris to do the lyke, intending to manifet Oure goode allowance and acceptatioun thairof, Oure pleafour and will is, That you fall, by fpeciall Aét of Counfell, approve and allow the faid Archiebifhop his whole proceedingis, alfweill in apprehending the Preift Paterfoun, as in his intrometting with these bookis, chaliceis, vestimentis, and in the burning and deftroying most pairt of thame at the Mercat Croce of Oure burgh of Drumfreis, declairing that bothe he him felff, his followaris, fernandis, and affiftaris, ar free from that aétionn, and exemed from all dangeir and paine of law, and heirwith you fall direct fummair chargeis vnder paine of horneing aganis the faid [John] Max-

well of Kirkeconnell, for deliuering to the said Archibifchop of all thefe bookis left in his hand, fince We ar pleafit to gif and difpone the fame to him to be vfit at his pleafour: For doing of whiche premittes, thir presentis falbe vnto you warrand fufficient, And fo We bid you fairweele. From Oure Courte at Grenewiche, the laft of May 1609.

To Oure richt trusty, &c.

PAGE 204. CXIX.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xiiij die mensis Junij 1609.

Act in favouris of the Archiebifchop of Glasgow.

FORSAMEKLE as the reverend Father in God, Johnne Archibifchop of Glasgou, hes of lait done vnto the Kingis Maieftie moft notable and worthie feruice, not onlie in the apprehending of the Preift Patirfoun, and difcovering the place of Mr Johnne Hammiltoun his reflet, whiche gaif the occafion of his taking, bot also in going to the toum of Newablay, and thair breking vp the chalmer dure of Mr Gilbert Broun, fome tyme Abbot thair of, and haueing found a grite number of Popifche bookis, copis, chaliceis, pietouris, imageis, and fuche vther Popifche trafche, he moft worthilie and dewtifullie, as become both a Prelat and Counfellour, on a mercat day, at a grite confluence of people in the high ftreet of the burgh of Drumfreis, did burne all thofe coapis, vefmentis, and chaliceis, and delyverit to [John] Maxwell of Kirkconnell all thofe bookis, vpoun fpeciall promeis that he fould mak thame furthecomeand; In confideration of whiche feruice, quhair of the Kingis Maieftie doith tak fpeciall notice, and for encourageing both the said Archibifchop and vtheris to do the lyke heirefter, The Lordis of Secrite Counfaile allowis and approvis the said Archibifchop his whole proceedingis, allweill in the apprehending of the Preift Patirfoun, as in

intrometting with the bookis, challiceis, vestmentis, and in birneing and distroying most part of thame at the mercat Croce of the burgh of Drumfreis, declaring heirby, that the said Archbifshop, his followairis, fervandis, and assistairis, to be free of that actioun, and of dainger and paine of law that may result or be moved thairvpoun; and feing it is the Kingis Maieties gracious will and pleafour to difpone vnto the said Archibifshop the hail bookis left be him in the handis of the said [John] Maxwell of Kirkeconnell, Thairfore ordanis letters of horning vpoun ane simple charge of ten dayis, to be direct aganis the said [John] Maxwell of Kirkeconnell, for delivering to the said Archibifshop of the hail bookis left be him in his hand.

PAGE 265. CXX.†

SIR THOMAS HAMILTON, LORD ADVOCATE, TO HIS MAJESTY
KING JAMES.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

In the end of the last oulk I wes bolde to aduerteis your Maiestie of the cause of the delay of the fetling of the controverfie betuix your Maiesties Officiaris and the Bifshop of Sanctandros, concerning sum Privileges acclaimed be him, whilk I haue ever thought vndew to any subiect. The sehortnes of this Session of Parlement did force me, for want of your Maiesties warrand to that article, to enter in contestation with the Archbifshop befor sum of the principals of your Counfall anent these maters; and having red the article whilk I had formed, he impugned the Narratiue and Substancie thair of: the Narratiue, becaus he affirmed that his great Goldin Chartour wes not purchaffed be the greid, craft, or ambition of his predecessours, bot be thair gude differuingis, speeciallie of Bifshop James Kennedie, who had preferued the Kingdome to King James the Second, and fet the crowne upon his head, whilk merited these recompentis to him self and his successours, whair of he wes than thought wourthie; and he behoued to menteane his laifull rightis, whilk did not onlie concerne him, bot ane

great number of great subiects of the Kingdome who wer his vassels, to whom and to him self his Chartour behoued to be als gude and warrant, speciallic being ratified in Parlement, as any uther Chartour or Ratification could be to any uther subiect of the Kingdome. I answered, That gude seruice done to the Prince might be sufficientlie recompensed, albeit the Crowne and Souerantie wer left to the King, and that he had in his Chartour poynts making him the Kingis Companion, and King beyde the King, whilk his predecessouris had put in practise, he repledging from the Parlement to thair privat Courtes men accused of Treaoun. At last I resolued, for want of your Maiesties warrant, to omit these high poyntes, and to urge him to submit to your Maiesties owne decision the right acclaimed, vsurped, and possessed be him of your Maiesties Custumes and Cokquet of Santandrois, and to the confiscation of forbiddin guddis transported or imported thair, whilk gif he be suffered to posses, he shall undo your Hienes proffit of your Custumes, and gif he pleas, mak all forbiddin guddis within this Kingdome frie at that Port. He hes also gevin Giftis of bastardie within his Regalitie, and gevin Declaratour thairupoun, the lyke whair of I never knew nor hard done by any subiect, whair of the exampill and consequence may preiudge your Maiestie exceedinglie. I formed ane Act of Submission, whilk is past in Articles, and gevis to your Maiestie the decision of thir questionis, whairin I pray your Maiestie not to giue credit contrare to this narration, whilk is the expres trewth, and not to allow your Maiesties preiudice for any information or persuasion thay can use in it. I forsee that my opposition in thir maters may breid me dislyking not to be uttered in thir particulars, whilk will be forborne for your Maiesties respect. Bot gif your Maiestie heirefter shall heir any change of report of me, I dowt not bot your Maiestie will remember the cause thair of, and will not thairby be moued to alter that gracious opinion whilk your Maiestie hes so lang had of me as your Maiesties ould and faithful seruand, whairin my caire to deserue the continewance of your Maiesties fauour as my cheif Earthlie felicitie shall be moir deir to me nor my lyfe. Thus humble craiving your Maiesties pardon for my presumption, I besek God to continew and increis his fauour and

bliffingis to your Maieftie many lang and happie yeiris. Edinburgh,
this 24 Junij¹ 1609.

Your moft Sacred Maiefties moft humbill, faithfull,
and bound feruand,

S. TH. HAMILTON.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

PAGE 207. CXXII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS
ON BENEFICES.

JAMES R.

Right truftie and right weilbeloued Counfellouris, We greit you
weill: Oure great defyre to reftore the vtterly fuppreffit Eftaite of
Bilhopes within that Oure Kingdome being not onlye weill knowen to
all Oure fubicctis, bot made notour to many abroade in forreyne pairtes,
moves Ws fo muche the more to be cairfull that this Oure worke, fo
neceffarye and profitable for a good ordour in that Churche, and fo
expedient in the Commounwealthe, being now broght by Ws to fuche a
reffonable perfectioun, may not be croffit by the dilapidationis of thofe
who ar in prefent title of thefe Prelacies by there fo hurting the Eftaites
of the fame, there dilapidationis, as that there fuceffoures fhall want
maintenance to beare out there rank, and fo through povertie forced to
relinquifhe it: And as it is not vnknownen to you how cheargable it hes
bene vnto Ws to acqyre vnto them fome remaynes bothe of Jurifdic-
tion and rent dew vnto them frome fuche who had purchaied rightes
of the fame, by paying very great founnes out of Oure Cofferis therefore,

¹ In the original, *Maij* seems to have been first written, and then corrected to *Junij*. In the Melros Papers, there are two letters from the King to Sir Thomas Hamilton, which he has indorsed, "His Maiesties most gracious acceptance of my faithfull service in his Heynes service, 9 May 1609;" and, "His Maiesties gracious acceptance of my service in the Parliament, 9 July 1609."

We are so muche the rather induced to carye a watchfull eye in this busynes, that We be not everye other yeare enforced to repaire the Estaite which may be by thame vndewtifully dilapidated: And albeit We will hardlie beleive that there be any suche amongs thame, yit for Oure owen forder satisfiactioun, and a greater assurance heirafter, and preventioun of any suche harme to be done, We haif maid speciall choice of you to be Oure Commiffioneris heirin, Willing you to appoynte fitt tymes and plaices for your conveyning, and at severall dyettis to call the Bishopes apairte before you, haueing by your letters certified them of the caus of there sending for, to the effect they may come the better prepared to giue vnto you particular satisfiactioun in whatsoever shalbe of them demandit; and haueing receaved from them a particular note of the present estaite of there Benefices, which you shall caus recorde in a Booke to be heirafter furthecommand, You shall demand also from every one of thame a Catalogue of all deidis done by them since there entrie to there Prelacies, ather in disposing of landes, kirkis, or teyndis, in alteratioun of haldingis, in conuersion of dewtyes, in approving defective titles, or in any thing els whereby thay, for some present game, haif hurte there seates and successouris of some yearlie accrefence in rent, impedit only thus by there new dispositioun or there confirmation of an unvalide right: And you haueing taken a particular inquisition therein, shall thereupoun certifie Ws of the Estaite of ilk Bishoprick there, to the effect We may consider thereof, giue ordour for amending what is amifs, and advyse vpoun the best meanis to prevent future harme in this caice, Wherein you shall do Ws acceptable service; And so bides you fairweill. Frome Oure Court at Roistoun, the viijth of October 1609.

To Oure right trustie and weilbeloued Counsellouris, the Lord Scone, the Lord Holyroodhouse, Mr John Prestoun of Pennyewick, President of Oure Colledge of Justice, Sir Johne Skene of Curriehill knight, Clerk Register, and Sir Johne Cockburne of Ormeston knight, Justice Clerk.

PAGE 207. CXXII.††

THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS ON BENEFICES TO THE SEVERAL
ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS.

AFTER oure verie hartlie commendationis to your goode Lordship: As the Kingis Maiestie hes bene cairfull to restoir the supprest Estate of Bischoppis in this Kingdome, by paying of verie grite fumes oute of his awne coffers for acquiring some remaynis bothe of Jurisdiction and Rent dew vnto thame, So His Maiestie is moved so muche the more to haif ane watchfull eye and speciall regaird that this so chargeable a worke to his Maiestie, and whiche is so necessair and profitable for a goode and comelie ordour in the Kirk, and so expedient in the Commonweele, be not croffit by the vndeutifull dilapidationis of those who ar in present title of those Beneficeis, sua that the Successouris of the present Titularis, throw want of mantenance to beir out thair rank, be not forceit to relinquishe thair charge, and His Maiestie thairby enforceit euerie other yeare to repair thair Estate, it has pleasit His Maiestie, for preventing of suche inconvenientis, to gif Commiission and speciall direction vnto vs and some otheris of His Maiesteis Counsell to tak particular notice of the Estate of euerie Bischoprik within this realme, and of the particulair deidis done be euerie Bischop fen thair entrie to thair Prelacyis, as in His Maiesteis Commiission sent unto vs thairanent mair fullie is contenit: And thairfoir, these ar to requiest and desire your Lordship effectuoullie, that you fail not, all excuises set asyde, to addresse your self heir to Edinburgh, vpoun the thrid day of Nouember nixt to come, and to bring with you the Register and trew authentik Rentall of your benefice, with a pertyte, ample, and cleir note and catalogue of all and euerie deid done be your Lordship since your entrie to that benefice, ather in disposing of landis, kirkis, or teyndis, in alteration of haldingis, in conuersioun of dewyteis, in approving defectiue titles, or in ony other thing els concerning the estate of that Benefice, wherby we may mak His Maiestie acquente thairwith, to the effect His Maiestie, in his faderlie cair over the Kirk, may aduise

vpoun the best meanis to prevent all future harme in this caise: And sua lookeing for your preceis keiping of this dyett, prouydit in maner foirfaid, as you respect His Maiesteis obedyence, committis you to God. At Edinburgh, the 20 of Oçtober 1609.

Jo. PRESTOUN.

S^r. JOHNNE SKENE.

The Bifchoppis of Sanctandros, Glafgw, Rois, Orknay, and Galloway, written for to the thrid of Nouember.

The Bifchoppis of Dunkeld, Dunblane, Brechin, and Caithnes, written for to the faxt of Nouember.

The Bifchoppis of Ergyll, Abirdeyne, and Murray, written for to the aucht of Nouember.

PAGE 210. CXXIV.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truffie and weilbelouit Cōines and Comfellowris, We greete you weele: Vndirstanding that one Maister Johnne Fairfoull, Minister at Dunfermline,¹ hes be the fpace of those sex monethis and aboue bene commonlie accustomat to mak mentioun in his prayer efter Sermone of the Brethrene, allweill within as without the Countrey, that thay may be reftoirit and broght home agane to thair awne placeis and fuñctiōis, We cannot bot muche admire how he durst haif presomed to vtter, or that ony of Oure goode subiectis could be patient to heir ony suche vndentifull spēcheis delyuerit be him, to the cleiring of those who being convict of heich trefoun wer nottheles (in Oure merey, with a grite mitigatioun of the dew and just punithement) onlie banilled,

¹ Respecting Fairfoull, see Nos. CXXVI. and CXXIX., *supra*, pages 211, 218.

whereby he wald by inference accufe Ws of perfequitioun, condemne the iudicatorye thair of wrangous and unjuft proceeding, and fofter and manteyne the feid of all felifme and difordour within the Church, whose offence is no whitt inferiour (yf not griter) than that committed by these alreddye baniffit, and thairfoir to the example of all utheris he aught the rather to be puniffit with rigour, that as the lenitie vfed with these utheris hes perhappis emboldenit him to offend, so the juft and dew proceeding without mitigatioun aganis him may affray all utheris, and move thame to be wary heirefter: And having willed the Archibifhop of Sanctandros his ordinarye (who by his place fould bothe hane aduerted and craved your concurrence for puniffing of the offence, with whome We haif adjoinit the Lord of Scone, for examining of that mater), to gif vnto you fpeciall informatioun how you fhall proceed in this tryall: And no way doubting of your cairfulnes heirin, We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Roiftoun, the 23 of October 1609.

[To Oure richt trustie, &c., *ut supra.*]

PAGE 210. CXXIV.††

THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS ON BENEFICES TO THE LORD SCONE.

AFTER oure verie hairtlic commendationis to your goode Lordship: It hes pleasit the Kingis Maieftie to fend downe ane Commiffioun and fpeciall direccioun vnto your Lordship and ws, and to some utheris of His Maiefties Counfell, to call the hail Bifchoppis of this Kingdome befoir ws, and to tak tryale and notice of the present estate of thair Bifhoprikis, and of the estate wherin thay fand the same, and of the particulair deidis done be enery one of thame fen thair entrie to thair Prelacyis, as in His Maiefties commiffioun and direccioun fend vnto ws at lenth is contenit, ffor executioun wherof we haif appointit ane meeting to be heir in Edinburgh, vpon the aucht day of Nouember instant, and becaus your Lordships prefence, concurrence, and affiftance with ws in this aecioun is requifite and necciffair, these ar to requieft and defyre your Lordship effectiuoufflie to be present with ws heir the

faid day, wherthrow we may begin to this werk, and proceed thairin accordinglie : And sua, recommending your Lordship to Godis protection, we rest

Your Lordship's very goode Freindis,

JO. PRESTOUN.

HALIRUDHOUS.

CLERICUS REGISTR.

Edinburgh, 3 Novembris 1609.

To the Lord of Scone.

PAGE 210. CXXIV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS
ON BENEFICES.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you weele : Undirstanding of some Preuiledges pretendit by the Archiebifchop of Sanctandrois vpon some auld grant maid to that Sea by some of Oure predeceffouris in tyme of blyndnes and superstitionn, and that he thairupoun hath maid a coquett of his awne, and hes challenged the customes of Oure Citie of Sanctandrois to belong vnto him, as alua the gift of bastardyis, and mony uther thingis meir Royall, quhilkis ar vnseparable from the Crowne ; however We haif bene cairfull to revive that mortifyed Clergy of that Kingdome, and to establishe the Estate of Bifchoppis, once almaiit vtterlie suppressed by the vnpure party in that Church. yitt wes it neuer Oure intentionn to communicat with thame ony part of Oure Royall pouer, prerogative, or preuiledge, and We do think assuredlie that thay of all uthers fould least intend it : Thairfoir you ar by your Priuey letter to will the faid Archiebifchop to appeir befoir you, and to bring with him quhatfoeuir grantis of preuilegeis hes bene formarie maid by ony of Oure predeceffouris vnto that Sea, and you ar to mak a particulair Abstract of the

fame, and thairwith to confidder whiche of thame ar onlie proper and pertinent to the Crowne, and yf ony of thame otherwayis, without Oure grite preiudice, may be still reteyned by that Sea, and to acquent Ws of your particulair advife thairin, to the effect We may thairupone tak fuche ordour as that all impertinent pretensies to be maid heirafter by ony Archiebifchop of that Sea may be fully stopped and removed, And fo bidis you fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Whytchall, the tent of November 1609.

To Oure richt truftie and weilbelouit Cofine and Counfellour, the Erll of Dunfermlyne, Chancellour, and to Oure truftye and weilbelouit Counfellouris, Mr Johnne Prestfoun of Pennycooke, Prefident of Oure College of Justice, Sir Thomas Hammiltoun of Bynnie, knyecht, Oure Advocat, and Mr Johnne Skene of Curriehill, Oure Clerk of Register.

PAGE 220. CXXX.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
ST ANDREWS.

Richt trait freindis eftir our hairtlie commendationis: Whereas the Kirk of South Ferrye Portincraig, within that Presbyterie, being now vacand by the tranfplantatioun of Mr Symeon Durye, who formerlie fuppleit the charge of the minifterie of that Kirk, we ar informed that you intend to plant ane Miniſter at that Kirk,¹ and to miſknowe and altogidder to prejudice his Maieſtie of his rycht of patronage of the ſaid Kirk, althoght in the erectioun of the Priorie of Sanctandros, whairof that Kirk is ane pendicle, the prefentatioun of the hail Kirkis of that Prelacy is ſpecialie referved to His Maieſtie; and yf you, without his Maieſteis prefentatioun, fall fo vnadvifedlie proceed to the planting of that Kirk. not onlie will you vnneceſſarlie draw your ſelffis

¹ See note, *supra*, page 215.

vnder His Maiefties offence, bot you will bring your Bruther, whome you intend to plant, in a verie grite vncertaintie bothe of his admiſſioun and ſtipend, for no man is to haif the benefite of the ſtipend of that Kirk bot ſuche as, by his Maiefties recommendioun and preſentatioun, falſe laughfullie and ordourlie plantit thairat; and thairfor We haif heirby thocht meete to foirwarne you of the prejudice whiche you will do to youre ſelftis and your Bruther, yf thus unadviſedlie you fall proceed to the ſaid plantatioun, and thairwith to requiſt and deſyre you to forbeir all proceeding and melling in that mater, whill you gett a laughfull preſentatioun frome his Maieſtie, as you reſpect His Maieſties obedyence, and will eſchew his Maieſteis juſt offence. Sua we committ you to God. Frome Edinburgh, the 28 of November 1609.

Your very goode Freindis,

JO. PRESTOUN.
KILSYTH.
MYRECAIRNIE.

WYNTOUN.
A. B. OF MURRAY.
TORPHICHEN.
R. COKBURNE.

To oure richt traift freindis, The Miniſteris
of the Preſbytrie of Sauctandris.

PAGE 223. CXXXII.†

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR VISITING THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS,
TO THE RECTOR, MASTERS, AND REGENTS.

RIGHT traift Freindis, efter oure verie hairtlie commendationis: At ane meiting and conference laitlie kept in this Burgh be a full number of ws, who ar nominat Commiſſionaris for the Viſitatioun of that Univerſitie. It wes complenit that that place of exerciſe and teaching within the New College, whairof Mr Johne Johnſtoun had the chairge, hes ceſſit this lang tyme bigane, by his ſicknes and inhabilitie, to attend his chairge, whiche being a mater verie prejudiciall to the eſtate of that College, and tuitching ws quho ar Commiſſionaris verie

neirlie in the credite of our dewteis, gif with connivence we fall suffer
 fuche a necessar place of that College langer to be voyde: We have
 thairfoir thocht meit to crave your advise and assistance quhat is fittest
 to be done heirin, requessing and desyreing you effectuoullie to lat us
 have some overture and advyse from you in write againe our nixt
 meiting, how this vaikand plaice in that College may be supplied and
 filled, and quhom in your opinioun you think meitest for that charge,
 whairthrow ordour may be tane thairin accordinglie, and we disburdynit
 of the imputationis whilkis by our ovirsicht in this mateir may be
 objectit unto us. Sua we commit you to God. Frome Edinburgh, the
 xxvij day of December 1609.

Your verie good Freindis.

S. JOHN SKENE.

JAMES HAY.

J. WEMIS.

SANCTANDROIS.

D. L. SCONE.

JO. PRESTOUN.

S. T. HAMILTOUN.

To our richt trait freindis, the Rector,
 Maisteris, and Regentis, of the Univer-
 sitie of Sanctandros.

PAGE 226. CXXXIV.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right trustie and right weilbelouit Cosines and Counsellouris.
 We greete you weele: Whereas We haif directit the Bischop of Gallo-
 way to mak a particulair Visitatioun through the Churcheis of his
 Diocie, that so he may vnderstand and knawe the conditionn of the
 same, whiche of thame ar vnplantit with Ministeris, and whairin thair is
 ony other defectis which require to be amendit, and quhair the par-
 roches be finall and adjoining, and thair prouisioun and stipend vnable
 for the maintenance of two, that he may tak ordour for vnitng of thame

in one Church, that so rather one be enabled to attend to the being conjoyned togidder then that bothe of thame for want of maintenance fould haif no Minister at all, We ar thairfoir to will and desire you to authorize the said Bischop with commiffioun and chargeis to this effect, felyke and in the fame maner as the Archiebischop of Glasgou had in his Visitation laillie of the Churcheis of Nithisdail and Annanderdail, and for doing heirof thir presentis falbe your warrant: And so bidis you fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Roistoun, this xxth of Januar 1610.

[To Our richt trustie, &c., *ut supra*.]

PAGE 226. CXXXIV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counfellowris, We greete you weele: Whereas upoun the presumptuous disobedience and misbehaviour of certane of the Ministerie of that Oure Kingdome, We thought goode to confyne thame in suche places as We thought most fitt, We ar now credibillie informit that diuers of thame not onlie exceed the boundis limited vnto thame, bot als preache publictlie in places far without the limitis preseryved vnto thame, a thing whiche at first seemed verie strange vnto Ws, bothe in respect of thair contempt of Our commandementis and your negligence of seing the sam in all partis fulfilled, you your selfis, or most parte of you, being ey witnesses of the story of Mr James Balfour within that Oure Burgh: Whereas by Oure speciall direction sent vnto you he was confyned elsewhere, It is thairfoir Oure pleafour that not onlie you putt present ordour to this abuse, bot also that you certifie Ws bak by this bearer Oure Secretaraye what assurance We may haif herefter, that Oure directionis of this kynd fall not be by you thus neglectit, and so bidis you fairwele. Frome Oure Courte at Roistoun, the 20th of Januar 1610.

[To Oure richt trustie, &c., *ut supra*.]

PAGE 226. CXXXIV.†††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellouris, We greete you weele: Whereas We haif thocht meete that the Generall Assemblic appoointit to be kept in May nixt fould not then holde, for certane reafonis whiche vnto you by Oure Secretarye falbe imparted, These ar to will you to caus pas and expeid ane Proclamatioun to be publiffit for that effect, when he fall require the fame; ffor doing whair of thir presentis falbe your warrant. We bid you fairweele, frome Oure Courte at Roiftoun, the 20th of Jannar 1610.

PAGE 234. CXL.†

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

[The following Act, referred to in the introductory note page 234, is here inferted, as it illustratis the Supplication of Campbell and Young:—]

Apud Edinburgh, penultimo Januarij, Anno ꝑc., 1610.

Charge aganis Mr Johnne Harper and utheris.

FORSAMEKLE as althocht the refset, fupplie, and intercommoning withe Jefuitis, Seminarie Preiftis, and trafficquing Papiftis be prohibite and forbiddin be diuers Actis of Parliament and Secrite Counfale, nochtwithftanding it is of treuth that Johnne Campbell, *alias* Fader Chriftome, ane knowne trafficquing Preift, returning laitlie within this realme, of purpois and intention to haif feduceit fimple and ignorant people frome acknowledgeing of the treuth, and to haif maid fhipwraik of thair Religion and faith, he, during the tyme of his aboade heir, had his moft frequent, ordinarie, and commoun reforte, refidence, and remaning within the boundis of the Prefbyterie of Irwing, quhair he was refset, fuppled, and confortet in all his necessaris be Mr Johnne Harper, Minifter at Kilbryde, Mr Johnne Foullartoun, Minifter at

Dreghorne, Mr Alexander Skryngeour, Minister at Irwing, Mr Johnne Young, Minister at Baith, and Mr Alexander Campbell, Minister at Stevinfom, Ministeris of the said Presbyterie; who not onlie keipit company and societie with him in all freindlie and familiar discourseis, bot interteneyed him in thair houffes, ministring unto him all suche confor-te, countenance, favour and assistance as gif he had bene a lauchfull subiect, heichlie to the disgrace of thair professioun and calling, misre-gaird of his Maiesteis auctoritie and lawis, and evill example to utheris simple personis to do the lyke, without remeid be pronydit: Thairfoir the Lordis of Secrite Counsaile Ordanis letters to be direct chargeing the saidis personis to compeir personalie before the saidis Lordis, vpon the fyftene day of Februar nixtoocum, to ansuer to the premisses, and to vndirlye suche ordour as falbe tane thairanent, vndir the pane of rebel-liom, &c., with certification, &c.¹

PAGE 235. CXL.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and richt weilbelouit Couseingis and Counsellouris, We greete you weele: Whereas We vndirstand that vpon the lait offence committit by Mr Johnne Fairfoull, Minister, for praying for these traiterous banneisched Ministeris, he wes then by you confyned within Our Burgh of Dundie vnto suche tyme as Our furder pleasour and will wer knowne thairanent: We haif thairvpon thoelit meit to alter the boundis of his confynneing, and to will and requyre you to direct your speciall warrant unto him to repair unto the Burgh of Anstruther, and to stay within the limitis of the Parrochin thairof, and no way to transcend these boundis, nor yit to repair to ony Sessionis, Presbyteries, or other Ecclesiasticall meetingis, without Our speciall licence had and obtanit thairto; Geving unto him notheles, by the said warrant, enduring the tyme of his stay in the said Parroche of Anstruther, libertie to teache and preache in the Kirk thairof: For doing of the whiche

¹ No further proceedings in this matter are recorded in the Books of Privy Council, either on the 15th February or of a subsequent date.

thir presentis falbe vnto you a warrant. And so We bid you fairweill.
From Oure Court of Whytehall, the thrid of Marche 1610.

PAGE 247. CXLIX.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

JAMES R.

It is Oure pleafure, will, and expres command, that aganis this enfewing Affemblye to be kept at Oure Citty of Glasgou, you fall haif in reddynes the fowme of Ten thousand markes, Scottis money, to be devydeit and dealt amonge fuche perfonis as you fall holde fitting by the advyise of the Archbifhoppis of St Androis and Glasgowe: And the fame falbe thankfully allowed to you in your nixt accomptes; and thir presentis falbe a fufficient warrant vnto you for that effect. Gevin at Oure Courte in Thetforde, the eight of Majij 1610.

To Our right trustye and right weilbeloued
Coufeing and Counfellow, The Erle of Doun-
bar, Thefaurar of Oure Kingdome of Scotland.

PAGE 250. CL.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE PROVOST AND BAILLIES
OF TAYNE.

TRAIST FREINDIS,

After oure hairtie commendationis: Whereas Mr Johnne Monro, Minifter,¹ being of a lang tyme bigane denunceit rebell, and putt to the horne for ane heich contempt and offence committit be him aganis the King his Saered Maieftie, and being of new echargeit to haif compeirit befor his Maieftis Counfaill, to haif anfuerit vpoun his said offence, he takand the cryme vpoun him, hes absentit him selff and compeirit not, and is thairfoir of new ordanit to be denunceit rebell, and

¹ Mr John Monro was Minister of Tayne in 1599, and also Subdean of Ross in 1614 and 1615. There was another person of that name, who was Minister of the adjoining parishes, Tarbert and Ferne, in Ross-shire, at the same time.

putt to the horne; and notwithstanding of his rebellious, we ar informed that he has his ordinarie residence in that Toune, and vsis his Ministerie thair as yf he wer a lauchfull subiect, wherat we mervell not a little that you who ar his Maiesteis officers, armed with his Maiesteis royall pouer and auctoritie, fould by your connivence and oversight suffer ony suche personis who standis under his Maiesteis offence haif so peaceable a residence and free exercise of thair calling amang you, seeing in the dewitie of your officis you stand anfuerable to his Maiesteie for every suche error and oversight wherwith in reafoun you may be burdynnit; and thairfoir chargeis ar direct aganis you for the apprehension of the said Mr Johnne, and keeping of him prifonner in some chahmer of your Towne quhill he purge him selff of his rebellious: The execution of the quhilkis chargeis We haif heirby thocht meete to recommend unto your cair and diligence, admonisheing you, that yf you be remisse or negligent thairin, that not onlie will you be maid to gif a compt of your bipast error and oversight in this poynt, bot suche uther ordour wilbe tane with you as your negligence in suche a cause requireth: And so committing you to God's protectioun, we rest

Your goode Freindis,

	PERTH.	A. CANCELLS.
	ABIRCORNE.	SANCTANDROIS.
	D. SCONE.	GLASGOW.
Edinburgh, 24 Maij 1610.	ROXBURGH.	GLENCAIRNE.

To our richt traift freindis, The Provost and
Baillies of Tayne.

PAGE 253. CLII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and weilbelouit Cosines and Counsellouris, We greete you weele: Whereas Doctor Gordoun, Deane of Salusbury,

allegeing him self to haif beene lauchfullie prouidit to the Bifchoprik of Galloway by Oure Fader and Moder of famous memorie, hathe showne unto Ws a Confirmation of his said prouisioun, whiche being altogidder unknowne (at least not rememberit be Ws), We wer pleasit to gif the said Bifchoprik, and Abbacie of Tungland therunto annext, as vacand in Our hands without a titulair, to Mr Gawin Hamiltoun; and becaus We ar not of intention that ony manould be preiudgeit in his rycht, it is Oure pleasour that you call before you bothe the said partyis, and hauing perused bothe thair rightis, that you tak some panes, *sine strepitu forensi, intra priuatos parietes*, to aggric thame, whiche yf you cannot get conuenientlie performed, that you aduerteis Ws of bothe thair richts, and whair the difficultye is; ffor seeing that in the tyme of Poprie all contraverseis of this natur wer decydit by the Pope him self, and not by the sentence of ony Ciuile Judge, whiche prerogatiue now doeth iustlie belong vnto Ws, We intend that this contraverfie fall, ather by Oure self or utheris as We shall appoint, be determined; and looking for your speciall diligence heirin, We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Bletfo, the penult of Julij 1610.

PAGE 254. CLIII.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND TO THE LORD DEPUTY OF IRELAND.

AFTER oure verie hairtlie commendationis to your good Lordship: Whereas the Kingis Maiestie, oure most gracious Soueraine, in his religious and princelie dispositioun towardis the advancement of the trew Religion, and suppressing of Poprie and Superstitioun within His Maiesteis dominionis, hes bene pleasit to confer the Bifchoprik of Rapho, within the contre of Ulster, to the reuerend Fader in God, Andro Bifchop of the Yllis, to the effect that by his panes and travellis the ignorant multitude within that Diocie may be reclaimed frome thair superstitioun and Popithe opinionis, and reduceit to the acknowledgeing of God and his trew worfchip, whiche is the onlie fontane from quhense

all dew obedience to lauchfull Magiftratis doeth ordinarlie flow: And the faid Bifchop being now to repair thither to reflaue poffeffioun of that Benefice, We haif thocth mete to accompany him with this oure recommendatioun to your good Lordfhip, thairby to lat your Lordfhip underftand that his Sacred Maieftie haith this man in a fpeciall and fauourable regard, alfwefe for the mony guid officcis done be him in the governement of the Church heir, as for the grite panes and travellis tane be him in reducing of the ignorant and wicked people of oure Yllis to the acknowledgeing of God and obedyence of the Kingis Maiefties lawis, wherin he hes had fo happie and gude a fucces, with the concurrence of His Maiefties Royall power and authoritie, as no pairt of oure Yllis doeth now continew rebellious. The confideratioun quhairof we doubt not wilbe forceable aneuch with your Lordfhip to reflaue the faid Bifchop with all felhowes and taikynis of love and kyndnes, and to affift and further him to a reddie haiftie difpatche and expeditioun of his effairis and bufynes thair, whairin, as your Lordfhip fall do vnto the Kingis Maieftie oure Maifter acceptable and good fervice, So you will do vnto ws verie fingulair and thankfull pleafour: And ceiffing to trouble your Lordfhip with mo lynes, onlie remembering oure hairtly love and kyndnes to your good Lordfhip, quhom we pray God to hold vnder his bliffit protectioun and faulfgaird, We refit for evir.

Your Lordfhip's verie loving and good Freindis,

A. CANCELLS.
 DUMBAR.
 JO. PRESTOUN.
 ALEX^R. HAY.
 S. T. HAMILTOUN.

Edinburgh, the thrid of Auguft 1610.

To the Deputie of Yrland, in fauouris of
 the Bifchop of the Yllis.

PAGE 262. CLIX.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS AUDITORS OF EXCHEQUER.

JAMES R.

Auditouris of Our Exchecker of Our Kingdome of Scotland, We greit yow hairtlie weil: Wheras Our right truftie and weilbelouit Coufing and Counfalour, the Erll of Dumbar, Our Thefaurair of that Our Kingdome, haith by fpeciall warrand and direcioun frome Ws, deliuerit vnto the reverend Father in God, James Bifhop of Orknay, Moderatour of the Generall Affemblic of the Churche convenit at Linlithgw in the moneth of [Julij] J^m vj^c and eight yearis, the fomme of Thrie thoufand and ten pundis money of that Our Kingdome, To be deftributit by the faid reuerend Fader to certane Conftant Moderatouris of Prefbiteries, and otheris Minifteris, according to Our direcioun geven thairanent: Our will and pleafour is, that in the nixt accomptis to be maid by Our faid Thefaurair of his intromiffioun with Our rentis and cafualties of that Our Kingdome, you defeafe and allow to him the faid fowme of Thrie thoufand and ten pundis money, flor whiche thefe presentis falbe your fufficient warrand. Gevin at Our Palice of Whitehall, the xxiiij of October 1610.

Warrant for allowans of ij^mx li pait to
the Bifhop of Orknay.

PAGE 262. CLIX.††

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, Decimo tertio Novembris 1610.

THE quhilk day, the Lordis of Secreit Counfaill having hard and confidderit the Petitioun gevin in be Mr Charlis Farne, Minifter at Fraferburgh, craving licence to pas home npoun cautionn to keepe his

awne Parroche, and to compeir befor the saidis Lordis whenever he salbe chargeit, The Lordis of Secreit Counfaill remittit the confideration of that Petitioun to George Archiebifhop of Sanctandrois, David Bifhop of Rofs, and James Bifhop of Orknay, willing thame to confer and advyse amangs thame felis what thay think meete to be done thair-intill, and to reporte thair opinioun thairanent the nixt Counfaill day.

Apud Edinburgh, Decimo quinto Nouembris 1610.

The quhilk day, George Archiebifhop of Sanctandrois and David Bifhop of Rofs repoitit vnto the Lordis of Secreit Counfaill that thay had conferrit and advifit at lenth upoun the Petitioun gevin in be Maister Charlis Farne, and thay thought meete that the defyre thairof fould be grantit, he finding cautionn under the pane of fyve hundred merkis that he fall remayne within the bondis of his awne Parroche, that he fall not repair to Presbytryis nor Synodis, and that he fall compeir befor the Counfaill whenever he falbe chargeit upoun fyvtene dayis wairning: Upoun whose Report the said Petitioun wes grantit.

PAGE 262. CLIX.†††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xxj Februarij 1611.

Charge aganis Mr Robert Bruce.

FORSAMEKLE as three yeiris fyne, or thairby, information being maid to the Kingis Maiestie that Mr Robert Bruce, Minister, wes visite with infirmitie and feiknes, his Maiestie wes grationlie pleisit to grant him licence to repair from the Burgh of Imernes, whair he wes confynnit, to the Burgh of Abirdeyne, and to remayne thair some certane space, wherby he myght haif the help and advife of Plifitionis for the better recoverie of his helth, his Maiesteis intencion and meancing being at that tyme that he fould returne and go bak agane to his

formair warde sua sone as it fould pleis God to restoir him to his helthe, nevirtheles the said Maister Robert maid no use of his Maiesteis licence foirsaid, bot contentit him selff with the place of his first aboade and residence, whill within this quarter of ane yeir bigane, that upoun some confait and fantasie, and without his Maiesteis foirknoulege and allowance, he hes withdrawne him selff frome the said Burgh of Innes to the Burgh of Abirdeyne,¹ and hes thair fetled him selff and his familie of purpos thair to mak his residence and constant abyding, expres aganis his Maiesteis meaneing and intentionn the tyme of the granting of the said licence: Thairfoir the Lordis of Secreit Counfaill ordanis letters to be direct chargeing the said Maister Robert to returne bak agane to his former warde in the Burgh of Innes, and thair to remane, conforme to the first charge and directioun gevin to him for that effect, ay and whill he be fred and releivit be the Kingis Maieitie, within tuintie dayis nixtefter the charge, vnder the pane of rebellion, &c.; and gif he failyee, the said space being bipast, to denunce him rebell, &c.

PAGE 267. CLXIV.†

MR ROBERT BRUCE, MINISTER, TO HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES.

MAY IT PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Heiring that my cuning to Aberdene wes interpret to spring of contempt, I thoelit it my bundin dewtie to purg my selff to the vttermost thairof, for I compt contempt of God and his Lowtment the heichest cryme that is; And thairfoir, for my purgation I say, that quhatsoener is done with ane warrand of God and man can nocht incur the suspition of a contempt, lat be ane actuall; and in deid gif thair had bene ane prescription or limitation of tyme in my licence, I had failzeit in passing the boundis thairof; yea, nocht onlie that, but I avaittit vpon the proper tyme quhair foir my licience wes gevin me, and tuik the benefeit, quhen the necessitie of my Infirmite contranit me; and being

¹ See Calderwood's History, vol. vii., p. 392.

moir respectiue than that, I tuik it nocht quhill the Bifchop of Murray brocht me the adwyfe of the Bifchopis of Sanctandros and Glafcow to do fo; and giff I had refauit the menest fignification that culd be that the embracing of the benefit at that tyme wald nocht fand with your Hienes contentment, I wald moft glaidlie haiff abftanit thairfra, for I haif layed my compt be Godis graice never to involve me in that giltines: So to end, thair is nothing done be me quhairfoir my former benefeitt fuld be retrenschit, and moft humlie I creauie that your Maiefties censure go nocht befor my procurig, but that my reparig to Aberdene for my better helth, and confort of my Wyff and childrin, may fand with your Maiefties fauor. So resting ever

Your Maiefties moft humbill fubject and orator,

M. ROBERT BRUCE.

Indernes, the 20 viij of Marche [1611.¹]

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

PAGE 267. CLXIV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and right weilbelouit Cofines and Connfellouris, We greete you weele: Wheras Mr Nathan Inglis, Mr James Greg, Mr Johnne Young, Mr Alexander Campbell, Minifteris, wer confynned, by Our speciall command and direftioun, within Our Citie of Glafgow, vpoun iust occasioun of mifdemeanour and offence committit by thame, and vnderftanding of thair penitencie for thair fault committit, and willingnes to forbeir frome offending heirefter, We ar thairupoun pleatit

¹ The date of this letter is ascertained from the previous No., and from the letters that follow, numbered CLXX.† and CLXX.†††

that whensoever you shall be certified by the right reverend Father in God, Our right trustie and wellbelovit Counsellour, the Archibishop of Glasgow, that he hath gotten from thame full satisfioun anent thair offence past, and thair penitencie for the same, and als assurance for thair deintifull cariage hereafter, that you shall then gif furthe your speciall warrand for thair enlargement, that thair may thairefter, at thair libertie and pleafour, resort ony whair in that Our Kingdome, as ony uther of Our lauchfull subiectis may do, and thir presents false unto you warrand sufficient: And so bidis you fairwele. Frome Our Courte at Roistoun, the 8 of Aprile 1611.

PAGE 267. CLXVI.

[The footnote to this letter, relating to Dr Peter Bruce, is misplaced, and should be transferred to No. CLXXXVI., page 300.—The person whom Archbishop Gladstones here mentions as his son-in-law and as Rector of the University was Mr John Wemyss of Craigtoun: see pages 297, 491, and 494. In the footnote to this last page, the words, “He was afterwards knighted,” should be deleted, as it is evident from the Sederunts of the Privy Council, till within a short period of his death, that “the Laird of Craigtoun” never received the honour of knighthood.]

PAGE 276. CLXIX.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt trustie and richt wellbelovit Coufing and Counfallour, and otheris Our trustie and wellbelovit Counfallouris, We greete you weil: Whereas Mr William Watfoun, Minister at Brunt Iland, haveing by gift from Us the sowe of fyve hundred merkis yeirlic, to have bene payit by Our Collectour of Beneficeis; according quhairto he

haueing receaved the said yeirly annuytie of all yeiris past; but in regard the said office of Collee^torie is assumed to Our uther Officers of Receipt, and the trust of all thame committed unto you, he thairuppon hath caused humble sute be maid vnto Ws on his behalf, that We wald be pleasit to direct Oure warrant unto you for continewing unto him that yeirly pay, without whiche he can not stay any longer Minister in that charge, bot wilbe forced to desert it for lack of maintenance: We thairfoir do recommend the same specialie to your considerationn, wischeing that gif you find the continewance of it expedient and requisite for Oure seruice, and no utherwyse, that you caus pay the same annuytie and pensioun yeirly and termelie heirefter, according as it hath bene formarie payed, for whiche thir presents salbe your warrand, and wherin you fall do Ws acceptable seruice: We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte of Grenewiche, the xvth of Junij 1611.

PAGE 277. CLXX.†

THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE BISHOP OF MURRAY.

AFTER oure verie hartlie commendationis to your good Lordship: Althocht your Lordship be your letter sent unto his Maiestie did purge your self of that imputatioun gevin out aganis you as being a consentair to Mr Robert Bruce his breking of waird furth of the Burgh of Invernes, yit his Maiestie doeth reflane new informationis. That your Lordship be your letter directit unto the said Mr Robert admit him to imbrace the benefite of his releif, and that your letter is extant in the hands and keiping of his wyff: And his Maiestie being desyrous to be resolued of the treuthe and certantie of that mater, hes willed ws to demand your Lordship thairuppon, and to reporte unto his Maiestie your direct answer what has bene done thairin; and thairfore these ar to requisit and desyre your Lordship to send unto us with this berair, undir your hand, your direct answer to this propositionn, outhir be acknowledging or denyng of the said letter, to the effect we may send the same unto his Maiestie, and so gif his Maiestie satisf-

faction in that mater: And fo wisheing your Lordship all happynes,
we rest

Your Lordship's very good Freindis.

LOTHEANE.

A. CANCELLS.

D. L. SCONE.

PERTH.

E. GLENCAIRNE.

[Edinburgh, 23 July 1611.]

PAGE 277. CLXX.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE,
LORD CHANCELLOR.

[JAMES R.]

Right trustie and weilbelouit Cosine and Counfallour, We greete you wele: Qubairas the incivile and barbarous behaviour of the most parte of Oure subiectis of Caithnes, Suthirland, and Strathnaver (whiche We thocht in sehort tyme wald of it self come to ane end), feameth rather to increse then ony way to diminishe; ffor preventing quhairof We see no more reddy and easie way then by planting of painefull Ministeris and wele affected Civile Magistratis amangs thame: To whilk effect We haif givin speciall Commissioun to this beirare, the Bischop of Caithnes, to imploy his personall panes, and in regard of accidentis whilkis may fall oute thair, and utheris thingis quhairof it wilbe requifite that Our Preue Counsell be informed: And for the better authorifing of the said Bischop in the discharge of his said Commissioun, We have thocht gude to admitt him to Oure Preue Counfall: yow fall thairfoir caus tak his Oathe, and admitt him as one of the ordinair number of Oure said Preue Counsell, to enioy preuiledgeis whiche ony wther Preue Counsellour, by verteu of his said place, enjoyeth.¹

To the Lord Chancellor.

¹ This letter was presented to the Privy Council on the 16th of August 1611, when Alexander Bishop of Caithness having taken the customary oaths, he was duly admitted.

PAGE 277. CLXX.†††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truftie and richt weilbelouit Confine and Counfallour, We greete you weele: Wheras Mr Robert Bruce did fignifie vnto Ws by his letter that he wes encourageit to the breking furth of Oure waird and caftell of Innernes by the confent and approbatioun of the Archiebifhopis of St Androis and Glasgou, and of the Bifhop of Murray interponed thairto, We did in regard thairof require euery one of the faidis Bifhopis to certifie Ws particularlie of the veritie of his foirfaid allegiance, who (obeying Oure will accordinglie) did thairefter by thair feuerall letters purge thame felffis of the haueing in ony fatchione condifendit to his deliuerie, which purgatioun, as it did cleir thame of all fuche imputatioun as thay micht haue thairthrow incurred, fo did it charge the faid Mr Robert of ane moft euident calumnye: Notwithftanding whairof We ar informed that the Wyff of the faid Mr Robert doeth planelie affirme that fcho haith in her euftodie the faid Bifhop of Murray his letter, manifefting his confent to the releif of hir faid Husband; Whairfore thefe ar to require you to will Oure Prefident and the Lord Foifterfait, at thair being in the North (whether We understand that thay ar to repair fchortlie), to call before thame the faid Bifhop of Murray, and thair to vrge his acknowledgement or deniall of the foirfaid letter, whairof (fo foone as thay haif acquainted you thairwith) We defyre to be by you advertifed; and fo We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Courte at Bewly, the fevintene of Auguft 1611.

PAGE 282. CLXXII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truftie and richt weilbelouit Cofen and Counfallour, and utheris Oure rycht truftie and weilbelouit Counfallouris, We greete you weill: At quhat tyme We eftablifhit the iurifdictioun of Oure Heich

Commissioun in that Oure Kingdome, We wer pleased that the ordinarie place of residence thairof shuld be at St Androis, bot haueing since that tyme more narrowlie considerit of the importance of that Judicatorie, and finding it necessair that the same wald be in some such place as personis of auctoritie may repair thairunto (especiallie seeing that in this Oure Kingdome some of the speciallis of Oure Preuey Counsaile ar commoulie present thair, at the least at the first fitting down of the same), We haif thocht guid heirby to will and requyre you to cause the feate of Oure foirsaid Heich Commissioun be removed from St Androis to Edinburgh, to the intent that not onlie some of you of Oure Preuey Counsaile and Sessioun may resort thairunto, bot lyke wyse that you Oure Chancellair may at every first fitting down thairof, and uther occasionis requisite, be personaly present thairat; and heirin willing you not to fail, We bid you fairweele. Frome Oure Court at Royston, the xvth of October 1611.

PAGE 282. CLXXII.††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xxv die mensis Octobris 1611.

Ane Act appointing the residence of the Commissionaris of the Heich Commissioun of the Kirk to be at Edinburgh.

FORSAMEKLE as the Kingis Maiestie, at such tyme as his Heynes establisheit the jurisdictionn of the Heich Commissioun in this Kingdome, wes pleisit that the ordinar place and residence thairof shuld be at Sanctandrois, bot haueing since that tyme moir narrowlie considerit of the importance of that Judicatur, and finding it necessarie that the same shuld be in some such place as personis of authoritie may repair thairunto, especiallie that some of his Maiesteis Preuey Counsell be present thairat, at the least at the first fitting down of the same; Thairfor his Maiestie and Lordis of Secrete Counsell has removit, and be the tenour heirof remouis the feate of the said Heich Commissioun from the Citie of Sanctandrois to the Burgh of Edinburgh; to the effect some of his Maiesteis Preuey Counsell and Sessioun may be present thairat at

every first down fitting of the fame, and utheris occaffioun requifite ; And ordanis intimation to be maid heirof to George Archbifhop of Sanctandrois, to the effect he pretend no ignorance of the fame.

PAGE 282. CLXXII.†††

THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE, LORD CHANCELLOR, TO THE ARCH-
BISHOP OF ST ANDREWS.

MY VERIE HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

The Kingis Maieftie, vpon fome fpeciall and good confiderationis, hauing thoct mete that the place of refidence and meeting of the Commiffionaris for the Heich Commiffioun fould be removed frome St Androis, whair it was eftablifhed, to the Burgh of Edinburgh, His Maieftie, be his letter directit vnto His Counfale heir, hes gevin fignification of His will and pleafour thairanent, as by the copie of the letter which your Lordfhip fall heirwith refaue will appear ; quhilk being red in audience of the Counfale, and thay knowing His Maieftis will and pleafour in this particulair, as in all utheris his princelie directionis, to be verie weele warrantit, with infallible groundis of reaſoun, Thay haue maid ane Act and ordinance anent the removing of the faid feate frome the one place to the uther, Whereof I haue heirby thoct meite to mak your Lordfhip acquentit, to the effect that in all tymes comeing you may appoint your Courtis and tymes of meeting to be heir at Edinburgh, whair your Lordfhip at every occaſioun falbe affifted not onlie with my prefence and advife, bot with the prefence of fuche utheris of the Counfale and Seſſioun as you fall pleis call unto you : And fo with the remembrance of my hairy kindnes to your good Lordfhip, withling unto your good Lordfhip all happynes and contentment, I reit

Your Lordfhip's moſt affectionat at command,

Edinburgh, the xxv of October 1611.

DUNFERMLYNE.

Frome the Chancellour to the
Archbifhop of St Androis.

PAGE 282. CLXXII.††

THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND THE ARCHBISHOPS OF ST ANDREWS
AND GLASGOW, TO THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND THE
PROVOST AND BAILLIES OF ST ANDREWS.

RICHT TRAIST FREINDIS,

After oure verie hairtlie commendationis: Whereas it hes pleafit God to call Mr Johnne Johnestoun, one of the Regentis of the New Colledge of St Androis, to his mercie, frome this mortall lyff, and understanding that he had findrie paperis, writis, and bookis, pairtlie written by him felff and pairtlie be utheris, quhilkis wer in his poffeffioun in his chalmer within the Colledge the tyme of his deceis, and quhilkis contenis fome purpoiffes and mater quhairin His Maieftie may haue verie juft caus of offence, gif the fame be sufferit to come to licht afoir thay be fichted, perused, and revifed be fuche perfonis as His Maieftie fall appoint to that effect; Thairfoir these ar to requeift and defyre you, that immediatlie efter the reflet heirof you addresse your felffis to the said Mr Johnne his chalmer within the Colledge foirfaid, and caus the duris thairof, cofferis, and kiftis within the fame, to be fuirlye closed, fua that nane of his paperis, bookis, nor writtis be fene, mellit, nor intro-metit with quhill his Maieftie gif direftioun to perufe and ficht the fame; and fo remitting this mater to your diligence and cair, as you respect His Maiefteis obedience and fervice, we commit you to God. Frome Edinburgh, the xxj of November 1611.

Your Lordship's verie good Freinds,

A. CANCELLS.
ST ANDROIS.
GLASGOW.

To the Rector of the Univerfitie, and to the
Provest and Baillies of St Androis.

PAGE 282. CLXXII. ††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JAMES R.

Ryght trusty Coufing and Counfalour, and others Our trusty and wellbeloued Counfalours, We grete you hartly weill: It has bene heavily compleyned to Ws by the Bishops and Minifers of that Our Kyngdome, that notwithstanding of Our Proclamations gevin furth at diuers tymes againft Iefuites, Preifts, and others Papifts that are difobedient to the Churchē, there reforte is yett more frequent in the countrey then of before, and that the number of Papifts growes and encreafes euerie daie for lake of due animadverfion unto fuche as tranfgrefse that waie according to the lawes, and speciallic that fuche as are Excommunicate are no more difhanted than others [who] live in obedience to the Churchē, a thing that is no waie tollerable: And wherin [We haue] made very ftrait interdictiōnis forbidding any reforte with them, unles license were craved [and] obteyned from th' Ordinarie. For although We permitt their wyves, children, and domeftike fervands to continewe with thame, and doe thofe dueties whereunto they are obliged, We can not allowe others that be not tyed to fuche neceffities to haunt thair focietie fo long as thay lye under that heauie censure of the Churchē. Whither this be your fault in ouerfeing these things when they are compleined of, or the Clergies in not geving due information unto yow, We leave it to your felfs to confider, haveing faid this muche, That as it lies bene in your knowledge, and is still Our principal care to have God honoured in Our Kyngdomes, and all fals and contrary Religioum to that whiche is professed banished furth of the fame, We shall neuer think Our felfis weill ferued by any that haue not a speciall regard of this. And therefore We require yow, according to the trust wherein ye are putt by Ws, to looke more carefullie into those things than ye haue done, and to enquire particularly of the Archbishops and Bishops who are members of that Counfall, what they understand of this defection, the causes, and true remedies of the same; Or if they be not fullieciently enformed, ye shall command them to convene the rest of

their number, and sutch of the Ministry as haue bene compleiners, and learne the same by them, that it being communicat unto yow, with common aduyce, a good course maie be taken for the staying of this defection, and repressing the practises of the Papiſts. And for the better effecting hereof, it is Our pleasure that ye give furth a Proclamation, and cause it to be published in all the head Broughs of Our Realme, charging and commanding all Bishops, Ministers, and speciallie the Moderators of Exerciſes, to trye and delate all Jesuites, Papiſts, Noncommunicants, and perſones Excommunicat for Papiſtrie, and give in their names, with the proceſſes led againſt them, and other verifications requiſit, within the ſpace of a moneth after the Proclamation, to the Archbishops of Sanctandros and Glaſco, to th' end Our Advocat maie call and perſue before you of Our Counfall or others Judges, thoſe that ſhall be found in that kynd puniſhable; and in the ſame Proclamation ye ſhall inhibit all perſons of whatſomevir rank or qualite that are not in houſe and familie with ſuche as are Excommunicat, to reforte, haunt, and frequent their companies, or repair unto them, under pretext of viſitation, or any other buſines, except they haue firſt obteyned licence of th' Ordinarye, under his hand; Certifying euery one that ſhal doe in the contrary heirof, that they ſhalbe called before Our Counfell, and puniſhed with all rigour, to the example of others. So committing thir things to your care and diligence, as ye will doe Ws acceptable ſeruiſe, We bid yow hartlie fareweill. From Oure [Courte] at Royſton, the 26 daye of January 1612.

To Our richt truſty, [&c., *ut ſupra.*]

PAGE 283. CLXXIII.†

THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO JOHN MURRAY OF
HIS MAJESTY'S BEDCHAMBER.

SIR,

Seing the often remembrance of the buylding of your Church at Graitnay hes not as yit procurit the beginning of the worke, the berar cummis him ſelf, be the counſel of al the Miniſteris heir, to ſe qhat him ſelf and his travellis can effectuat. And I coul not leave him vnac-

companyit with my letter, not only for this, bot also to pray yow that his Manffe may be buylt, his thre akeris of land at Redkirk gifen him, qliche he fayis Robert Macbrair detenis from him, and some surer afflig-natioun of a stipend maid, feing he is ever complening of payment at our metingis. These thingis I doubte not, for your honour, ye will regard; for I hear strangeris from England refort often thitlier, and it is schame to se no course takin for a Churche to serve God in; and ghen thai ad, It is alwyfe askit, in qhose defaulte it is? Belydis, I haif gifin often assurance to our Ministrie that it fuld ben done ere now, and my credit with tham in this point is fallin in grit hafart, qherof I doubte not ye wil haif sum respect, altho thair be in this erand many griter causis to moue yow. And so leaving these thingis to your confideratioun, and remembring my hartie commendationis to your self, I rest

Your maist assurit at power,

Moffat, the 24 Apryl 1612.

GLASGOW.

To my honorabill guid freind, Jhon Murray,
Gentilman of his Maiesteis bedehalmer.

PAGE 285. CLXXV.

[The transcriber of this letter, and of No. CLXXIX., had mistaken the date 1612 instead of 1611; consequently these letters should have been placed after CLXVIII. and CLXIX. The signature at the top of page 293 should be simply "Balfour." The originals, which could not be discovered for collation while the sheets were at press, are contained in the volume of State Papers for 1617 and 1618, Nos. 17 and 24.]

PAGE 291. CLXXVIII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right trustie and richt weilbelouit Cofines and Counfellowris,
and trusty and weilbelouit Counfellowris, We greete you weele:

Whereas We find by daylie experience the harme aryfeing of printing and publishing of erroneous, hereticall, slanderous, feditious, and treasonable books, all whiche, by a little diligence and care, may be prevented: We haif thairfore thocht good by these presentis to will and requyre you to giue ordour to all Printeris and Book fellaris in that Oure Kingdome, according to the ordour heir, that thay presome not to put to presse any book of Diuinity or Deuotionum, except the same be first perused and approvit by one of the Archbischoppis; and yf the same be of Historie, or any uther parte of Humanitie, that it be sene and allowit by Oure Secretarie; and yf Law, that it be perused by such Commisionaris as Oure Chancellour and College of Justice fall appoint; and that it be testifeit under thair handis that the bookis to be printed conteyne no thing contrarie to the treuth of sinceir religioun, good maneris, or the lawis of Oure Realme: And farthermore, becaus mony bookis ar broght into and vented in that Oure Kingdome which ar not printed thairin, it is lykwise Oure pleafour that ye gif strick and expres ordour to all Book fellaris what sumever, that at what tyme thay fall bring home any books to be sold, thay do not utter any writtin by any Popithe or suspected wreiter without licence obtenit from the Bilhop of the Dioecie, or Oure Secretarie, whiche of the two fall happin for the tyme to be nixt at hand: so as all thingis being first perused, the divulgating of all erroneous opinionis in Religioun, and slanderous, feditious, and treffonable reportis in Historyis, and uther wise, may be preventit. Wherin, not doubting of your care, We bid yon all farewell. From Our Court at Whytchall, the xvijth of Junij 1612.¹

PAGE 302. CLXXXVII.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Richt truftie Cofen and Counfellour, and utheris Oure truftie and weilbelouit Counfellouris, We greite you weele: We ar pleastit, at

¹ The Privy Council, in conformity with this letter, on the 2d of July 1612, issued a "Proclamatioun anent prenting of Bookis," repeating, as usual, the precise words of the King's missive or warrant, as above.

the humble requieft of the right reverend Father in God, Oure truftie and weilbelouit Counfellour the Archbifhop of Glasgo, To releafe all the Minifteris within his Diocie as ar ather confynit within thair parrocheis or kept in waird utherwife, and to grant thame frie libertie as to ony of Our fubicētis for repairing to thair feuerall parroche Churches, keeping of the Synodis and utheris meetingis allowed for the exercife of Minifteris in doctrine, upoun affurance gevin to Ws that thay will heirefter cary thame felfis in that dewtifull obedience whiche thay awe to Ws, and with that respect whiche becomes thame towardis thair fuperiouris in the Churche. Thairfoir it is Our pleafour that immediatlie upoun the ficht heirof ye mak publicēt intimationn of this Our will, and declair thame and euery ane of thame fred and releuit of thair wairdis and confyneingis, to the end thay may await upoun thair officis, and keip the dyetis with the reft of the Miniftrie whiche ar appointit for thame. And fo We bid you hartlie fairweill. At Newmarkett, the xx^o Januarij 1613.¹

PAGE 310. CXCH.†

THE ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW TO [JOHN MURRAY
OF LOCHMABEN?]

SIR,

I refavit al your letters, but cum not to Edinburgh before this laft Sunday, the penult of May. I was at Air, qhair I fand al things wel ordrit, and much good done to Mr William Byrnie his travails thair. He is returnit, and feems wel contentit, qhairof I am glaid. I man entreat yow to deal for me in a particular qhairwith I am vrgit. I am chargit be ane Jhon Belfehefe, Advocat, at the instance of Sir Robert Maxwel, to pay him, within fun fex or ten dayes, twelf thowfand merkis, qhairof I gair my band, at his refignatioun of New Abbay, to affuir him of that promife quich wes maid be his Maieftie to that effect; for it plefit his Maieftie, not only for his entrellè thair, bot to recompens his other services, to grant, at my humble entreatie, fo muche to the Gentleman. I haif no releif nor poffibilitie to pay it, being otherwise

¹ The Lords of the Privy Council, on the 9th of February, accordingly passed "An Act releving the Ministers of the Diocie of Glasgow from their wards."

burdenit in my particular estait. Nether know I a way to do it, vnlesse his Maieftie be plesit to gif a warand to the Collector of the Taxt for so muche to Sir Robert. I was a futer for a peice land that Maxwell possessit of the New Abbay, ane threttie aucht merk land, for quiche he payit to the place or Abbay a litle dowry. This wold haif helpit the levinge to ben sumqhat. Bot efter his Maieftie was plesit to signe my grant, it was crossit, and ane discharge maid of the sam, that it mycht be fewit to otheris, and the fowm wil not be grit that wilbe gottin for it, and I think none at al, as our ponerty is this yeir. Considering how difficil it wilbe to get Sir Robert payit out of the moneyis heir, and that I think his Maieftie wil be loath to grant ony part of the Taxt that way, lest the example of it may draw on other preceptis, I wold entreat yow to see if I may haif warrand for the passing throw of that grant quiche his Maieftie signed to me; and I wil tak sum course my self to releif Sir Robertis dett, vpon surty that it falbe repayit to me or sume of myn, ghen money is more ryf in his Maiefties coffenis; for quiche I sal feik onlie the surte of the levinge it self. If his Maieftie sal grant me those landis, thai wil help the leving, and thai ar proper to the Abbay, and so mak me in sum fort able to overeum the dett; and his Maieftie sal ever haif vpon the said twelf thousand merkis a gud rent to return, ather for the profit of the Crown or to be at his Maiefties dispositioun. Sir, becaus this is a great busines to me as any I haif had in my tym, and concernis me muche in credit, I wil pray yow helpe into it, and that his Maieftie be yow may vnderstand the strait I am lyk to fal in for that Band, and propone the way of releif, that if it be lykit of, I may provyd for Sir Robertis payment, and fend vp my securities to be passit that I craif for the repaying of the money: And in the mein tym, that ye wilbe plesit to speik Sir Robert, and get sum warrand from his Maieftie to speik him, that I may be superfedit til the nixt term, qhairin if he wil haif any reason he wil not be difficil. Sir, I wil expect your ansuer with the first occasion. I rest till the nixt pacquet, and ever remaynis

Your assurit to command,

Edinburgh, the 2. of Junij 1613.

GLASGOW.

PAGE 310. CXCIII.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JAMES R.

Right trusty and right welbeloued Cofens and Counfellours, and right trusty and welbeloued Counfellours, Wee greete yow well: Hauing latelie vnderstoode of Masse said in Our Burgh of Edinburgh, and discovered by the diligence of the Archbyschoppe of St Andrewes, with the assistance of the Magistrates of Our said Burgh, and that some of the hearers being apprehended and demaunded concerning their associates and fellow hearers, hauing first forsworne them selues (a mater ordinarie and vsuall with them of that Religion), yet at length haue made such confession as thereby Wee perceane more to be infected with that leprolic than Wee coulde well haue imagined, and therefor Wee thinke the tryall thereof not to be slightlie passed ouer, but (in respecte that it importeth so highlie to Our wholle Estate) to be searched out to the uttermost: Wee haue therefor thought good by these presentis most earnestlie to desire yow, as yec will answere to God and to Vs, to vse such diligence and curiosity in the searche and punishing of this greate offence, as no man may hope, by his close conueyance of the lik affaires (how secretlie fouer thay shall be practised) hereafter to passe unchallenged: Whiche earnestlie desiring and assuredlie expecting at your handes, Wee bid yow farewell. At Our Mannour of Greenwich, the 28 of June 1613.

To Our right trusty, [&c., *ut supra.*]

PAGE 315. CXCVI.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right trustie and richt weilbeloued Cofen and Counfallour, and richt trustie and weilbeloued Counfallours, We greete you weil:

Having thought it expedient for Our service that the Vicount of Rochester should be one of Oure Preuey Counfaill of that Oure Kingdome, whose oathe of Alledgeance, and of ane Counfallour, We our selffis haue reffaued, in prefence of fa mony of Oure Preuey Counfaill of Scotland as wer that tyme at Oure Courte, and caused Oure Secretarie mak ane record thairof; Thairfoire it is Oure will and pleafoure that ye caus ane Act of Secrite Counfaill be maid of the admissioun of the said Vicount Rochester as one of Oure said Preuey Counfaill of that Oure Kingdome, and insert the same in the Bookis thairof, geving him place and vote thairin at all tymes convenient, with all priueledgeis and immunitis belonging thairto, as frelie as gif his oath and admissioun had bene maid in your prefenceis, whereanent these presentis, togidder with Oure Secretareis note afoirsaid, to be delinered to the Clerk of Oure Counsaile, false unto you and him ane sufficient warrant; which expecting that ye will see this Oure pleafour redilie performed, We bid you hairtelie fairwele. Frome Our Court at Finchinburgh, the 18 of October 1613.¹

PAGE 320. CXCVII.†

THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST ANDREWS TO [JOHN MURRAY OF
LOCHMABEN ?]

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL SIR,

After my loving commendatiounis, I have sent my Sone, the beaer heirrof, to effectuat sum purpofe with the Kingis Maiestie, quilk I account als deir to me as my lyff and honour. I will not discourse vpon it: Albeit my partie glories of your freindschip, I will nather thank yow nor any man that will tax this caus against me to be my trew freindis. I refer all this purpofe to the sufficiencie of the beaer,

¹ At a meeting of Privy Council held at Edinburgh the 27th October 1613, there was passed an "Act anent the admissioun of the Vicount of Rochester vpon Counsaill;" followed by a copy of the King's warrant, as above, and the testimony of Sir Thomas Hamilton, that Robert Viscount of Rochester had given the accustomed oaths as a Privy Councillor, at Finchinburgh, on the 18th of October 1613.

who in all respects may represent my self. So I commit yow to the grace of God, and restis

Your loving Brother,

Edinburgh, 9 Januar 1614.

SANCTANDROIS.

PAGE 322. CXCIX.†

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

Apud Edinburgh, xx^o Januarij 1614.

Warrant for apprehending of James Stewart.

FORSAMEKLE as James Stewart, callit of Hierusalame, being convict in ane Justice Courte haldin within the Tolbuthe of Edinburgh for heiring of Messe, and dome and sentence being pronouneit aganis him for that caus, ordaning him to be banisheit his Maiesties dominiones, and to depart furthe thair of at ane certane day now bigane, neurtheles he still remanis within this Kingdome, And as the Lordis of Seereit Counsaill ar informit he is busie practizing aganis the trew Religioun presentlie professit within this realme, in heich contempt of ourc Souerane Lord his auctoritie and lawes: Thairfoir the saidis Lordis ordanis the Provest and Baillies of Edinburgh and the Caunogait to pas, searche, seik, and tak the said James quhairevir he may be apprehendit within thair boundis and iurisdiction, and to putt, hald, and detene him in sure firmance and captiuitie, ay and quhill the saidis Lordis tak forder ordour anent his punishment, as apperteynis; as the saidis Procest and Baillies will anser to the saidis Lordis upon thair office and obedyence.

Apud Edinburgh, tertio die mensis Marcij 1614.

Ane Act anent the Celebration of the Communioun.

Foramekle as albeit thair has bene diverse Actis of Parliament and

Conventionis maid be His Maieſtie, with adviſe of his Eſtates, whairby all his Maieſteis ſubiectis wer commandit to Communicat anes everie yeir, without ony pretext of excuſe quhatſomevir, undir certane panes mentionat and contenit in the ſaidis Actis, as the ſame at lenth beiris. Notwithſtanding quhairof, as His Maieſtie is informed, the ſaidis Actis hes reſſaved ſmall execution in diners pairtis of this Kingdome, inſoſer as ſindrie perſonis pernitiouſlie affectit to the trew Religion, and contemptaris of the ordour and diſcipline of the Kirk, doeth ordinarlie, when the Communion is miniſtrat in thair parrocheis, withdraw thame ſelfſis to other parrocheis, undir pretext of doing of thair privat buſynes, wherby not onlie do thay eſchapp bothe tryall and puniſhement, and ar encouragedit to continew in thair Popiſche erroris and opinionis; bot otheris who ar not yit weill groundit in the principallis of the trew Religion ar by thair exampill inducit to an imitation of thame bothe in lyff and converſation, ſua that Poperie daylie increaſſis, to the offence of God, and to the grite preiudice of his Maieſteis eſtate: And His Maieſtie being cairfull that thir Recuſantis and Non-Communicantis, who ar moſt pernitiouſ peſtis in this Commonwele, falbe knowne, and thair actionis, cariage, and behaviour mair narrowlie advertit vnto nor formerlie hes bene: His Maieſtie, for this effect, with adviſe of the Lordis of his Secrite Counſaill, hes thoght meete, concludit, and ordanit, that the Communion falbe celebrat vniuerſallie through all the Kirkis of this Kingdome vpoun one day, to witt, vpoun the Twenty-four day of Aprile nixttocum, and that the hail ſubiectis of this Kingdome who are worthie to be admittit to that Holie action ſall Communicat that day: And gif ony falbe fundin to be abſent frome that action, that notice be tane of thame, to the effect that not onlie may thay be conuenit for contravening of his Maieſteis lawis, and the penaltyis preferyuit be the ſaidis lawis exactit of thame without fauour; bot with that, that ſuche vther ordour may be tane with thame as is dew for perſonis whoſe lyff, conuerſation, and cariage is ſo ſuſpitiouſ, and conſequentlie ſo dangerous to this Eſtate and countrey. It is alwyſe declairit, that gif ony perſone or perſonis, vpoun neceſſair occaſionis of his adois, ſall happin to be abſent frome his awne parroche Kirk the ſaid day, That ane teſtimoniall in write vndir the hand of the Miniſter

of the Kirk quhair he communicat full liberat him of all perrell, dainger, or inconvenient that he may incur through his absence and not communicating at his awne parroche Kirk: Thairfore ordanis letters to be direct, chargeing Officeris of Armes to pas and mak publicatioun heirof be oppin proclamatioun at the mercat croceis of the head burrowis of this realme, whairthrow name pretend ignorance of the same, whiche proclamatioun and publicatioun so to be maid, His Maiestie, with aduise of the saidis Lordis, declairis to be als lauchfull and intimatioun and requisitioun to all his Maiesties subiectis as gif thay had bene personalie requirit to that effect: And to command and charge all and findrie his Maiesteis leigeis and subiectis of what estaite, rank, qualitie, or degrie so enir thay be, That thay prepar and addresse thame selff in modest and decent maner, as becometh Christiane people, to resiane the Communioun, and that thay communicat the day soirsaid, vndir the paines contenit in the Actis soirsaidis, certifeing thame that falbe foundin absent fra the said Holie actioun, that not onlie fall thay be punist conforme to the saidis Actis, bot with that, suche vther ordour falbe tane with thame as accordis: And lykwyse to command and charge all Archibishopis, Bishopis, and vtheris inferiour Ministeris, to attend at the feuerall Kirkis and Congregationis quhairat thay or ony of thame ar appointit to serue, and to prepar and sie the Elementis and vtheris thingis necessarlie requisite for the said Ministratioun, be preparit agane the said day, as thay and euerye ane of thame wilbe answerable to God and the Kingis Maiestie, vpoun the dewtie of thair charge, calling and functioun, and vndir the pane of incurring of his Maiesteis heich displeasour, and to be punist thairfoir in thair goodis, at the arbitrement of his Maiesteis Counfall.¹

¹ On the 21st of March 1615, a similar "Proclamatioun anent the celebration of the Communioun," enjoining that it be "celebrat throughout the hail Kirkis of this Kingdome vpoun ane day yeirlie, to witt, Pasche day," was issued by the Lords of Privy Council. It is in more concise terms than the above Act in 1614, but it contains this additional clause: "Reserving alwayes to the Faderis and Ministeris of the Kirk the power and fredome of appointing of suche other dayis for ministration of the Communioun as thay, in thair wisdomes, fra tyme to tyme sall think meete."

PAGE 331. CCIV.†

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JAMES R.

Right trusty and right welbeloued Cofen and Counfellour, and right trusty and welbeloued Counfellours, Wee greete yow well: Whereas controuerfie arose betuixte Our Deputy Treasurer and the Byshoppe of Orkney, concerning the valew of some landes in Orkney, It is Our pleasure that yee cause eache of the partyes severallye sette doune his valuation of the said land, and the reasons moving him thereunto, vnder his hand, and the same to be sente to Vs with all convenient expedition, to the end that Wee may giue such further order in that mater as Wee shall thinke fitt: And herein expecting your diligence, Wee bid yow farewell. At Our Mannour of Greenwich, the 7th of June 1614.

To Oure right trusty, [*&c.*, *ut supra.*]

PAGE 331. CCIV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JAMES R.

Right trusty and right welbeloued Cofen and Counfellour, and right trusty and welbeloued Counfellours, Wee greete yow well: Forasmuch as the Byshoppe of Orkney, being employed in Oure seruice for reducioun of the Iles of Orkney and Zetlande to Oure better obedience, hath not onlie sufficientlie performed the same, but further to testifie his affection to Our said seruice, hath recovered diuers thinges which perteyned to the late Earle, which (together with some other thinges founde in the houses) hauing still in his custodie, forth comming to Oure use, he desireth may be taken of his hande: It is therefor Oure pleasure that yee appointe some sufficient person to receaue the said thinges frome him, and giue him a discharge of his intromission, and an exoneration of his foresaid seruice: Which not doubting but yee will suf-

ficientlie see performed, Wee bid yow farewell. At Our Mannour of Grenewich, the 7th of June 1614.

To Oure right trusty, [&c., *ut supra.*]

PAGE 333. CCV.†

MR PETER HEWAT TO JOHN MURRAY OF HIS MAJESTY'S
BEDCHAMBER.

SIR,

I am lothe to be trubillsum to yow, knowing your manifold impelmentis, yit vpoun the experience of your former loue and kyndnes, and constant affectionn caryit to all suche as endeuoir to giue prouit of gude seruice to his Maiestie, I am bold to offer this my sute vnto yow, that as thair was a former warrand purchest by your meinis to my Lord Secretar and Lord Thesaurer Deputt heir for recouering from the handis of Sir Androw Meluill the few mailes of the Abbacie of Croce-regall, the same may now be renewit again. For quhairas the former hath had some impedimentis, I trust now my Lord Thesaurer Deputt be so disposed, that quhatueer fall be inioyned he will redely obey. Sir, the mater is bot finall, and yit ye fall promeis to His Maiestie in my name, that with this mein help I fall at my awin coist (be Godis grace) bring that benefice to sik estait as thairin ane honest man may do gude seruice to His Maiestie. And now since be my Lord Secretar and uther freindis heir I haue my Lord Thesaurer Deputt so willing, I moit intreit yow, Sir, for a new warrand. I hoip his Maiestie fall neuer think it ill bestowit, and ye fall haue me one redy to be employit by yow in ony thing quhairin I can proue stedabill. Thus, praying God to blis and direct yow in all your effairis, I tak my leif, and reitiss

Youris to be commandit,

Edinburgh, the 13 of Junij 1614.

M. P. HEWATT.

To the rycht worshipfull his muche respected
freind, Jhon Murray, Gentilman of his
Maiesteis bedchamber.

PAGE 333. CCV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JAMES R.]

Right Trustie and Right weilbelouit Cosine and Counfellour, and Right trustie and weilbelouit Counfellouris, We greete you weele: Whereas certane Ministeris, namelie, Maisteris Williame Row, Johne Carmichaell, William Scott, William Watfoun, and John Skrymgeour, haue bene for certane yeiris bigane confyned within a limited space of aboade feuerallie appointit to each of thame, We haue thocht goode, for certane reasonis thairvnto mouing Ws, to will and require yow to enlarge thame oute of thair said confynes, geuing thame libertie to refoirt to ony siche place as thay pleas in that Our Kingdome. And heirin willing yow not to fail, We bid yow fairweele. At Our Manour of Greenwich, the xiiij day of Junij 1614.

[To Our richt trusty, &c.]¹

PAGE 333. CCV.†††

ACT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.

*Apud Edinburgh, xxj die mensis Junij 1614.**Ane Act anent the Transporte of Passingeris frome the Campweere.*

Forfamekle as it is undirstand to the Lordis of Secreit Counfell that thair is diuers perfonis, aduerfaris to the trew Religioun presentlie profest within this Kingdome, who refoirtis and repairs frome all pairtis to

¹ The Privy Council, in conformity with this letter, on the 28th of July 1614, passed "Ane Act releuing certane Ministeris of Fyffe of thair warde." It may be mentioned, that the persons named were Ministers respectively of the following parishes: Row of Forgandenny, Carmichael of Kilconquhar, Scott of Cupar, Watson of Burntisland, and Serimgeour of Kinghorn. This Act, omitted under its proper date in the Register, occurs before the 14th of September 1614.

the Toun of Campweere in Yeland, and thair awaitis the commoditie and occasion to be transportit in this Kingdome, and at thair arryvall, and during the tyme of thair aboade heir, thay ar busseye, and employis thair wittis and ingyne to diuert simple and ignorant people from the treuthe and veritie of the Evangell, and to imbrace the foolish errouris and superstitionis quhilkis be the lawis of this Kingdome ar abolisit and suppressit; and whairas the refoirt of fuche kynd of people into this Kingdome can not be without grite hafaird and perrell to this Estate, Thairfoir the Lordis of Secreit Counsell orlanis letters to be direct, to command, charge, and inhibite the maisteris, awnaris, skipperis, and marinaris of quhatsumevir shippis and veshellis in this Kingdome, be oppin proclamatioun at all placeis neidfull, that nane of thame persone nor tak upoun hand at ony tyme after the publicatioun heirof to ressaue in thair barkis or shippis at the Campweere, and bring from thense into this Kingdome any pallingeris of quhatsumevir nationn, quhill first thay obtene frome the Minister of the Scottis Kirk at Campweere a testimoniall undir his hand, bearing that the persone or personis who desyris to be transportit into this Kingdome doeth hant the Scottis Kirk at Campweere, and ar knowne to be professouris of the trew Religioun presentlie professit and be law establisit within this Kingdome, undir the paine of warding of the contravenaris of this present ordinance during the saidis Lordis will and pleasour; and forder, to be fyned in thair goodis at the saidis Lordis pleasour; certifieing thame that failycis or dois in the contrair, that not onlie fall thay be wardit, bot lyke-ways thay salbe fyned in such pecuniall fowmes as the saidis Lordis fall impose upoun thame.

PAGE 8. II.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO THE COMPTROLLER.

JAMES R.

Trusty Counfellour, We greet you wele: Being myndit alwayes that Our trusty fervitour, Mr Patrik Galloway, fall haue and enjoy quhatfoeir he had of Ws within that Our Realme during his lyfetye; and that he fall not be interest nor prejudged thairof in any caise, We haif thought goode hereby to will and command you, that ye fall not to anwser, and caus him be anwerit in all tyme cuming during his lyvetye, of the fowme of Twa hundreth pundis money of that Our Realme, and his Wyne assignit and appointit to him for his dyett and ordinare in Our Houfe thair yeirlic, conforme to the appointment sett doun thairanent, as ye tender Our speciall pleafour and obedience: Sna We bid you fairwele. From Our Courte at Whithall, the xxijth of Marche 1604.

To Our trusty and welbeloued Counfellour,
Sir David Murray of Gosperty knyght,
Our Comptroller.¹

PAGE 24. XIV.††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO LORD SPYNIE.

JAMES R.

Rycht trustie and weilbelouit Coufinge and Counfellour, We greit yow hairtlic weill: Wunderstanding by the Counfellis letter, and

¹ This and the next three letters were obtained too late for insertion, according to their respective dates. Galloway, it will be observed, obtained the renewal of this grant while in England. (See *supra*, p. 1.) He was formerly Minister of Perth, and became Minister of the King's Household. In the introductory note to his Report of the Hampton Court Conference (ib. p. 3), Dr Barlow's account is erroneously quoted as printed in 1605, in place of 1604.

your awin to Ws, togidder withe the Bufehope of Murreyis awin declaratioune, quhow willing ye ar to furrender your rycht of that Bufehoprik in Our handis, Quhilk as We can nocht account bot acceptabill to Ws, fua haiff We vreiten to the Erle of Dunbar Our mynd thairament for your fatiffaëtioune; Only We defyre ye will be contentit withe the ternis of payment: And fen ye haiff begun weill, let the end be anfuerabill to the beginninge, quhairof ye fall haiff na occatioune of repentance: The bypaff experience of Our favour may affure yow alfo heirefter that ye fall be na loffer at Our handis. This trustring ye will forder Our fervice, and finifehe this vork, We bid yow hairtlie fairveill. From Valtoune Abbay, the feunteenth day of December 1605.

To Our trusty and welbeloued Coufen and
Counfellour, the Lord of Spynie, thefe.

PAGE 76. XLIV. ††

HIS MAJESTY KING JAMES TO ONE OF THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JAMES R.

Trustie and welbeloued Coufeing and Counfellour, We greeete yow hartie well: Whereas, for want oftentyms of overfeing and animadverfion to the Difcipline which thould be obferved in Univerfities, the good orders made at the foundation of the fame maye be forgotten and become in diffuetude, and fo all things turne to confufion and diforder, to the decaye of learning and good letters, and with great hurte to the commonwealthe: For which caufe in former tymes it being an ufual forme to caufe Univerfities be vifited, aswell for remeiding of bypaff enormities upon the warrant of former rules, as for eftablifhing of new orders to help and prevent anie fuch evils, as having not bene formerly thought of, have nevertheles bene incident fince that laft preceding Vifitation: Therefore, amang other of Our Commiffioners for that effect, We have made particular choife of yow to be one of the Commiffioners appointed for vifiting of the Univerfitie of St Androis, and the Colledges of the fame, to be kept there the fyifte of Maij next

to cum, recommending vnto your ſpeciall care and conſideration the eſtate of the ſaid Univerſitie, that yow maye ſee the good orders and lawes thereof ſo putt in praſtice, that vice may be puniſhed and vertue cheriſhed: And whereas We have thought meitt to retayne here Mr Andrew Melvill, Principall of the New Colledg there, And ſince that place requyres a reſident quallified man to diſcharge the ſame, Therefore having made choiſe of Mr Robert Howye as a moſt meitt and ſufficient perſon, both in reſpect of his lyf and literature, to poſſeſs that place: We are to will and requyre yow to ſee him placed therein, with all fees, dewties, immunities, and priuiledges belonging or apperteyning to the ſame place, To be bruiſed and enjoyed by the ſaid Mr Robert, induring all the dayes of his lyftyme, Wherein ye ſhall doe Vs moſt acceptable ſervice and pleaſure. And ſo We bid yow right hairtily farewell. From Our Courte at Whitehall, the 9. of Marche 1607.

PAGE 337. CCVI.†

THE BISHOP OF ORKNEY TO SIR GIDEON MURRAY,
TREASURER DEPUTE.

RIGHT Honorable my very good Lord, pleis your Lordſhip, I haue left ane ſufficient commiſſion for receaving the money to Mr Patrick Turnett, Perſone of Borthwick, whoſe acquittance efter any forme your Lordſhip pleaſes ſhalbe als ſufficient as myn own.

I haue ſpent almoſt this day in peruſing and laying this Rentall, wrettin be David Hart, according to the takinſen comptis, and findis, be my counters, if they haue not deceaved me, that the wholl rent, no deduction of penſions being maid, with all the few-maillis of the landis in Orkney, will not exceid eight thowſand merkis beſyd the thriddis. Your Lordſhip may try my compt, and teach me if I haue erred.

Pleis your Lordſhip alſo to receave my informationus to his Maieſtie, whiche ar cloſed and ſigned, becaus I haue, in forme of ane miſſive or letter, drawin them vp ſchortle, and incloſed them within ane other ſcheete of paper, Whiche I dout not bot your Lordſhip will caus be ſent withe your own informationus.

Now taking my leiff of your Lordship, I entreat your Lordship to be myndfull of my money, wherof I stand in so great need, and of the commission for the armour and houshold stuff in Orcney, to be retained receaved from me. I purpose not to stay long thier, bot God willing fall returne betuix and Lambes, if I may find passag. So resting vpon your Lordships fauour and cair, I committ your Lordship to God his fauour and blissing, and falbe

Your Lordship in all dewtie to ferue yow,

JA. B. of ORCADS, Nominaliter.

To the Right Honorable his very good Lord,
My Lord Thesaurer Deput of Scotland.

The following letters addressed to his Majesty King James are preserved in Vol. ii. of a collection of Original Letters (see *supra*, p. xxii., note 2), in the possession of Dawson Turner, Esq., Yarmouth:—(1.) James Lord Balmerinoch to King James, 10th October 1606, referring to the Proclamations to be issued against Ministers praying for their distressed brethren. (2.) James Nicolson, Minister of Meigle, without date, testifying the good services of the Earl of Dunbar and Lord Seone, in attending the meetings at the Synod of Fife and Perth. (3.) Spottiswood Archbishop of Glasgow, 15th August 1613, earnestly recommending David Lindsay, son of the Bishop of Ross, to be successor to his father in that See. (4.) Spottiswood (not Law, as in Mr Turner's Catalogue), and others, 7th December 1614, informing his Majesty that they had brought to trial, and convicted, and sentenced to death, Ogilvie the Jesuit, and his abettors, for entertaining him, and hearing Mass. (5.) David Home, Minister in France, giving an account of the Conference at Charenton in regard to the proposed Union of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches, in the year 1616. (6.) The Archbishops and Bishops, before the General Assembly at St Andrews, 25th November 1619, declaring their intentions to comply with the King's commands, in giving no further toleration to the refractory Ministers. (7.) Archbishop Spottiswood, 17th May 1620, informs the King that Father Anderson, who these many years "has traffiqued in this kingdom," has been apprehended, and requests that the charge of examining him may be committed to the Secretary, to the Archbishop of Glasgow, and himself, in order that the proceedings be "exact and private;" and he congratulates his Majesty that the capture falls out opportunely, in the midst of the business with the refractory Ministers; that the people may see what an even hand is carried against Papist and Puritan.

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Original letters relating to the

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